Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

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Facebook race row councillor insists: I won't quit

BY GEOFF BAKER
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KENSINGTON and Chelsea councillor Beinazir Lasharie could be forced to quit following controversy over comments posted on her Facebook page.

The former Big Brother contestant and councillor for Notting Dale is currently suspended from the Labour Party after an outcry over posts she made allegedly promoting anti-Israel conspiracy theories – a claim that she says is "ridiculous".

One MP has called on Councillor Lasharie to "apologise and resign immediately".

The London Region of the Labour Party is investigating whether the posts on Councillor Lasharie's page amount to racism. Council insiders say if investigators conclude that the comments were racist she could be sacked from the Party and would have to stand down as a councillor.

But Councillor Lasharie strongly denies the accusations – saying she is no racist and argues that she could not be anti-Jewish as her children are part Jewish. The row blew up after councillor Lasharie reportedly

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■ **ONLINE OUTCRY: Kensington and Chelsea councillor Beinazir Lasharie has been suspended from the Labour Party after a storm of protest followed posts she is alleged to have made promoting anti-Israel conspiracy theories – a claim that she says is "ridiculous". Councillor Lasharie insists she is no racist and argues that she could not be anti-Jewish as her children are part Jewish. The row blew up after councillor Lasharie reportedly shared on Facebook a video entitled "ISIS: Israeli Secret Intelligence Service".**

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EMPHASIS PLACED ON PRESERVING CAPITAL'S CREATIVE DIMENSION

Don't forget the arts, developers told

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson this week called on developers, planners, local authorities and others responsible for the planning and design of the capital to put culture and creativity at the forefront of their thinking about developments in the city.

The Mayor's comments come amidst increasing fears that artists and creative talent are being squeezed out, because they find studios and workspaces unaffordable and London increasingly expensive to live in. The Mayor has now published *An A-Z of planning and culture*, which, for the first time, outlines the practical steps that can be taken to integrate and protect culture and even support new cultural activity in developments.

Mr Johnson said: "As London continues to grow and prosper, there is a critical need to build more homes for Londoners, but this should not be at the expense of our culture and distinctiveness, which are hugely important for our economy.

"There are good examples of developers and planners incorporating culture into their regeneration schemes, including Olympicopolis, London City Island, the City and Nine Elms. We want more of them to be talking to, even working with cultural bosses, artists and other creatives at the start of projects and recognise the value of culture, not just to our city's quality of life, but to the success of their developments."

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Four out of five people say that culture is main reason that they come to London, which is known around the world for its vibrant creativity and character, from music to the visual arts and its theatre to its nightlife. The creative industries are estimated to be worth £35 billion annually, whilst cultural tourists spent £7.5 billion in 2013, underlining the importance of these sectors to the economy.

Developers now realise the huge economic value to new developments that an anchor or cluster of cultural activity and facilities can bring to ever changing and growing areas of the city, making London's new places vibrant dynamic neighbourhoods, such as an expanded and relocated college and new cultural businesses at the heart of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre regeneration.

Yet there are mounting concerns about London losing artist studios, music venues, pubs, theatres and other cultural spaces. The capital is set to lose 3,500 artist studios in the next five years, a third of the capital's creative workspace, whilst a third of grassroots live music venues have disappeared since 2007.

The urgent need for housing and the impact of commercial and business redevelopment, combined with other factors such as local planning issues, licensing rules and rising business rates are contributing to the loss of creative workspaces and cultural venues that are a key part of London's attractiveness as a place to live and work in and to visit.

The mayor already backs a range of initiatives to support the capital's cultural and creative sectors, such as the Agent of Change principle, a rescue plan for music venues and using the London Plan to ensure boroughs take a pro-culture approach to planning.

He has also actively encouraged organisations to bid for regeneration funding, such as through the London Enterprise Panel's Growing Places Fund and London Regeneration Fund. Support includes the SPACE studios project on Mare Street in Hackney, which received funding from the Mayor's Spacehive campaign; funding from the Mayor's High Street Fund for Create and Bow Arts, which are reopening The Old Manor Park Library in Newham as a public workshop space for artists, creative businesses and the community; the Green Rooms Arts Hotel project in Haringey, which will provide affordable accommodation for visiting artists, has also received funding from the High Street Fund.

An A-Z of Planning and Culture is aimed at the people and organisations shaping London's future, including councils, developers, planners, community groups and cultural bodies. It provides examples of good practice, where culture is being included in developments and gives information about what developers, planners and community groups can already do, using existing frameworks, such as Section 106 agreements and turning venues into Assets of Community Value. The mayor will publish a new report in 2016 specifically looking at new models of funding for artist studios.

To coincide with the publication of the guide, around 250 developers, planners and cultural leaders were at City Hall on Monday for a high level summit looking at how to ensure culture can be protected and placed at the heart of London's future development.

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Arts festival engages with young people

THE Nour Festival of Arts is taking to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's classrooms and offering a number of workshops on art and literature from the Middle East and North Africa.

Syrian writer Nadine Kadaan will visit Oxford Gardens Primary School on Tuesday, November 17, to read from her book *Ghadan* (Tomorrow) which tells the story of a little boy living through the civil war and facing the uncertainties and anxieties experienced by many Syrian children.

The schoolchildren will draw postcards with messages of hope and support, which will be sent to Syrian children living in refugee camps.

On Tuesday, November 10, students will visit Leighton House Museum for a workshop on Ottoman and Persian ceramic tiles and plates, led by artist Amber Khokhar.

As well as studying the collection, the children will have an opportunity to sketch and paint their own ceramic tiles.

Students from Kensington and Chelsea College will work with Saudi Arabian photographer Adel Quraishi, whose exhibition, *The Guardians,* is at Leighton House throughout the festival. The students, who are studying Level 2 photography, will produce portraits depicting the guardians of their own lives, which will be exhibited at Kensington and Chelsea College from 11 to 13 November.

■ FESTIVAL FIRST: Nour Festival fans can visit the Elgar Room at the Royal Albert Hall on November 4 for the UK debut performance of Mesel, a jazz ensemble from Istanbul, which brings a modern and refreshing take on traditional music from Anatolia as well as from the Middle East, from Middle Asia, the Balkans and Greece. Folkloric melodies are blended with elements including jazz and western classical music, as well as music from the Ottoman period, inspired by the musicians' diverse cultural and musical backgrounds, to create a style and approach that is rather unique in its delivery. Doors: 9.15pm. Inset right: photographer Adel Quraishi.

Finally, girls from Sion Manning School will study Marwan's exhibition *Not Towards Home but the Horizon* and the poetry of Adonis at the Mosaic Rooms before creating their own visual poetry, which will then be shown alongside the exhibition on Sunday, November 29. The Nour Festival, which is supported by the Council, features over 50 events in 18 venues across the Royal Borough and runs during October and November. For more information go to *www.nourfestival.co.uk.*

Borough in rush to put homes on the market

HOMEOWNERS in Kensington and Chelsea are selling up at a rate of four and a half times the London average.

After a quiet summer for homes going on the market, now there's a rush to sell, sell, sell in the borough.

A property supply index compiled by online estate agents HouseSimple.com has revealed that while the capital has seen an average surge of 27 per cent in sale boards, in Kensington and Chelsea the number of new property listings for September has shot up by 122 per cent.

In July and August the number of homes for sale fell in the borough by 25 per cent but now the shortage has lessened.

"But it's too early to breathe a sigh of relief that a property crisis has been averted," said HouseSimple's chief Alex Gosling.

"Stock reservoirs still remain dangerously low. The housing market still has a long way to travel to rebalance supply and demand, but these latest figures show that we are finally moving in the right direction."

Other boroughs also saw a rise in homes coming on the market – in Hammersmith, Fulham and Westminster the rise was almost 50 per cent and in Camden new listings rose by 95 per cent.

Councillor rejects racism accusation after online storm

FROM PAGE 1

shared on Facebook a video entitled "ISIS: Israeli Secret Intelligence Service" along with the message: "Many people know about who was behind 9/11 and also who is behind ISIS. I've nothing against Jews... just sharing it!"

In another post, she reportedly said: "I've heard some compelling evidence about ISIS being originated from Zionists!"

After the posts were reported in *The Sun*, Labour chiefs acted to investigate the allegations.

A Labour spokesman said: "She has been suspended from holding office as part of the Labour Party pending an investigation, based on the comments that she made on a social media site."

But councillor Lasharie, who has represented Notting Dale since May last year, rejects the claims of racism.

On Facebook, she wrote: "Don't believe everything you read, people are out there to twist what you say and use it against you. I'm a humanitarian and want peace in Palestine and Syria and the war torn world. How can I be racist against Jewish people when my children are part Jewish? Ridiculous to accuse me of being racist!"

■ UNDER FIRE: Labour councillor Beinazar Lasharie.

On Twitter she added: "My children's great grandfather was fully Jewish and had family members and businesses bombed by Nazis. I'm married to a white man, racist?"

But pressure has mounted on councillor Lasharie to stand down.

Simon Johnson, chief executive of the Jewish Leadership Council, said: "Her ridiculous comments are a dangerous incitement with no place in decent discourse." And Oliver Dowden MP said: "It beggars belief that these vile comments have come from an elected representative of the Labour Party.

"She should apologise and resign immediately, and the Labour Party should have a full inquiry into how this person was selected in the first place. There is no room in public life for people who promote these racist lies."

Councillor Lasharie appeared in TV's Big Brother in 2009, when she became the first contestant to be voted off after she was in the Big Brother house for just four days.

She is originally from Pakistan, from where her family were forced to seek asylum in the UK when she was a year old. Her father was a supporter of former president Beinazar Bhutto, after whom she was named, but this allegiance led to the family receiving death threats.

Councillor Lasharie has been told by the Labour Party not to talk to the press while the investigation is being held.

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NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Golborne Road rejuvenation ideas

MARKET traders, businesses and residents have had their say on proposed improvements to Golborne Road.

The Golborne Working Group, which is made up of the Golborne Association, Golborne Forum, residents, market traders and shop owners has identified a number of issues which it would like Kensington and Chelsea council to improve. These include poor signage, tired pavement surfaces, poor drainage, market management and road safety.

The working group also identified aspects of the street which it liked and wanted to keep such as retaining the existing road and pavement widths and the eclectic mix of shops and traders.

The group was also very keen to encourage more visitors and tourists to the area and to promote the existing market and its street food stalls.

The council has now identified a number of improvements which it can make that will not compromise the area's traditional character. These include: raising the market stall area to pavement level and re-profiling to solve drainage problems, repaving the pavements (but retaining their current width), installing new streetlights which are suitable for hanging banners and Christmas decorations and will make the road brighter at night; planting five more trees; replacing angled parking bays with parallel bays to improve the connectivity of Golborne Road and providing raised tables at the junctions of Portobello Road and Wornington Road to slow vehicles and help pedestrians crossing the road.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, cabinet member for planning, said: "We have been working with residents, market traders and businesses for some time on proposals to improve Golborne Road.

"Now thanks to a fantastic contribution by the Golborne Working Group we have a design that can successfully tackle the existing problems and make the area more attractive to residents, traders and visitors without compromising its unique character."

The consultation closed on October 23.

Funding lifeline for entrepreneurs

A KENSINGTON business enterprise agency has announced they are working in partnership with a local credit union to provide loans for entrepreneurs who may have been turned down by the banks.

The Portobello Business Centre, whose success stories include smoothie giant Innocent Drinks, will be referring clients looking for funding to grow their business to Kensington-based Your Credit Union.

"PBC is often the first port of call for people taking their first steps as a business. However, some fledgling firms fail to meet banks' tough approval criteria and fall at the first hurdle," said the business centre's chief executive Allen Pluck.

"Credit unions have a more one-to-one approach and have a slightly more flexible threshold for lending which could be just what many young start-ups could be looking for. Putting back into your community is something that applies to businesses and residents alike, so we're doing our bit to encourage local firms to utilise the services of the credit union."

The Portobello Business Centre has invested £15,000 in a members share account with Your Credit Union – the maximum allowed under Government-rules – to support clients looking for business funding.

William Rhodes, chief executive of Your Credit Union, has hailed the new relationship as an important next-step for the organisation.

He said: "There is a huge pool of talent in the area. If that is harnessed this will translate into future prosperity for the local community."

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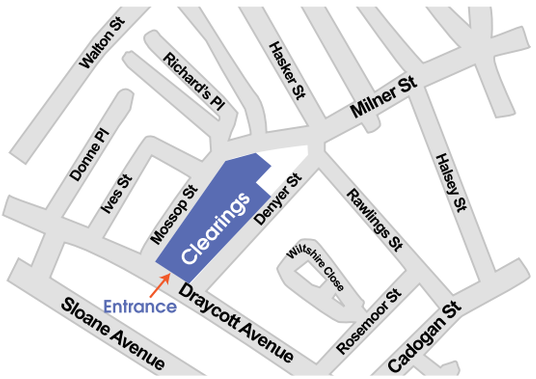
Public exhibition on the redevelopment of the Clearings building, Draycott Avenue, SW3



A public exhibition on early plans for the redevelopment of the Clearings building will be held at the interim Marlborough Primary School, currently located at the Clearings site on Draycott Avenue, SW3, on:

Friday 6th November 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday 7th November 10am – 4pm

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NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

CRITICS: Actress Felicity Kendal joins protestors against Crossrail 2 in Chelsea.

Crossrail 2: chance to sort fact from fiction

As *Kensington & Chelsea News* readers will know, the Council is a long-standing supporter of the principle of having a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea.

There are a number of reasons for that support and I'll give you a quick reprise of them now.

Some of our residents, especially on the western side of Chelsea, are poorly served by public transport; some of them do not have cars, and can't afford black cabs or even Uber. Crossrail 2 will really help them. Our air quality is poor and it is reasonable to assume that much better public transport will translate into fewer car journeys and therefore fewer pollutants.

It should also reduce the number of commuters from the western side of the borough parking near Sloane Square and South Kensington Tube stations all day.

Crossrail 2 would also deliver appreciable extra footfall to the King's Road, which must surely be good news for our retailers.

And, if all that wasn't enough, there are two more recent developments which have made the case for Crossrail 2 even stronger. First of all, with Crossrail 1, Crossrail 2, and possibly a Crossrail 3 and HS2 as well, we could be on the brink of a transport revolution across England.

If Chelsea gets a Crossrail 2 station then Chelsea can be part of it .

Clapham Junction would be an incredible three minutes away rather than 32 as at present and Tottenham Court Road would be six minutes rather than 33. With a new station residents could, within minutes, be switching onto fast trains for Heathrow; High Speed 1 trains to France and eventually HS2 trains travelling to the Midlands and the North at up to 250 miles per hour.

Without a station however, our residents will be consigned forever to that long walk or slow bus journey down to Sloane Square for the Tube. Will that make Chelsea such an attractive place to live in 50 years time?

Finally, it is now clear that the Royal Marsden and the Royal Brompton hospitals, our national centres of excellence in cancer and cardiothoracic care, are going to be expanded and modernised in the foreseeable future. It will be pretty wonderful, quite frankly, if a new station is able to deliver staff and patients right to the doorstep via that revolutionised transport network I have just described.

So, as you can see, I think there are lots of reasons why in principle Crossrail 2 could be a real benefit, especially for future generations. It's plain enough however that not everyone shares my enthusiasm, in fact a rather energetic campaign is underway to stop Crossrail 2 coming to Chelsea at all.

As a resident myself, I know Chelsea is a great place to live so people are inevitably going to be anxious about change and anxious too about the disruption caused by the construction.

We understand that and are working hard with TfL to try and bring more certainty to key questions like where and how large the station will be, and how long it will take to build.

We believe we have made real progress on getting answers to those questions and, as promised, we are holding a public meeting next Tuesday November 3) to enable residents to sort out the fact from the fiction for themselves.

TfL's Managing Director, Michèle Dix, will be there to give a presentation and answer questions. Our Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Tim Coleridge, will explain the Council's position, and the No Campaign will have its say too.

The meeting takes place at Chelsea Old Town Hall on the King's Road and gets underway at 6.30pm.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

Parents and safety experts demand 20mph school run

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SAFETY experts and parents are pushing for a go-slow London with a campaign to cut every 30mph speed limit across the capital down to 20mph.

The call to slow down motorists comes as police this week launch a major road safety drive to make the city's streets safer.

As the clocks have gone back and the streets get darker the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has ordered a crackdown on dangerous drivers, with the police out in force.

"Officers from the Roads and Transport Policing Command, in partnership with Transport for London, will be covering dozens more locations across London – targeting road users whose careless, dangerous or illegal behaviour puts other road users at risk," said the mayor's spokesman.

"Officers from the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police are stepping up their road safety enforcement activity – the equivalent of an extra 9,800 officer days a year, which will include, on average, one day of dedicated road safety action each week – building on the work London's police services have already delivered to reduce collisions.

"As part of the enforcement activity, Operation Safeway, which was launched two years ago, will be expanded to cover more than 300 priority locations across the capital and will see officers targeting road users committing a range of traffic offences as well as engaging with them on road safety advice.

"Offences include speeding, careless driving, jumping red lights, drink and drug impaired driving, using a mobile phone while driving, unlicensed and uninsured drivers and dangerous vehicle defects.

"In addition, a new, hard-hitting TfL advertising campaign to raise awareness of these dangers, will be seen across London and will complement the policing activity taking place. Posters and radio adverts feature engaging imagery to highlight behaviour that causes the most road collisions and to remind people that 'one risk is one too many'."

The mayor is pledging to ratchet up road safety with a target to halve the number of people killed and seriously injured on the capital's roads by 2020. The original target, to reduce the number of such incidents by 40 per cent by 2020, was achieved six years early.

Mr Johnson said: "Improving road safety is one of my top priorities and as we head towards winter it's the right time for us to redouble our efforts. This partnership between the police and TfL will see increased, targeted enforcement of the law, as well as educating Londoners about how to keep safe and the importance of looking out for one another. By doing this we can continue to make real progress towards my target of significantly reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads."

Leon Daniels, TfL's Managing Director of Surface Transport, added: "Across London, the number of people killed or seriously injured continues to fall. However, both the mayor and TfL are clear that no-one can rest until our roads are as safe as we can possibly make them. By focusing our attention on these five sources of danger, we can prioritise the main causes of deaths and serious injuries and take further steps to eradicate the risk of these collisions from occurring."

Last year, the number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads fell to its lowest level since records began. In 2000 6,117 were killed or seriously injured, last year the number was 2,167.

However, safety campaigners and parents of schoolchildren are calling for local authorities to introduce a blanket 20mph limit in 30mph areas so that cycling in the city will be safer.

"We want to see a 20 miles-an-hour limit across the board," said a spokesman for the transport safety group Sustrans.

Already more than a quarter of London's roads are now 20mph and the mayor is continuing to work with boroughs to extend the slower speed limit in more streets.

Pressure to put the brakes on motorists comes as official figures from Transport for London show that the number of cyclists seriously injured in accidents every year since 2005 has been up on what it was 10 years ago.

In 2005 the number of serious injuries to cyclists was 351, last year it was 419. The average number of cyclists seriously injured from 2005 to 2014 is 458 per year.

As the total of serious injuries to London cyclists from 2005-2014 currently stands at 4,583, it is predicted that by the end of this year the total will top 5,000.

Although the number of cycling deaths has fallen over the past 10 years, from 21 in 2005 to 13 last year, an overwhelming number of London parents want a 20mph limit imposed to lessen the number of cyclists seriously injured in accidents.

Road safety experts say that if you are hit by a vehicle at 30mph you are seven times more likely to be killed than at 20mph.

■ **SLOW MOTION: 20mph speed limit zones in some parts of central London.**

A survey of parents with children in primary school conducted for Sustrans has revealed that 80 per cent would be most likely to want to cycle or walk to school if their journey was on roads where the speed was 20mph.

"A 20mph default speed limit in built-up areas would ensure that the majority of school journeys would be made along streets with slower speeds. This would make everyone's journey safer and allow children and parents freedom to choose healthier alternatives to getting into the car for the school run," said Sustrans' head of policy Claire Francis. "We need the law to change so that 20mph speed limits are the default in built-up areas. A 20mph limit improves safety and can reduce the need to spend on new infrastructure."

The calls for slower speed limits in central London have been backed by many councillors across the capital.

"Collisions involving cyclists in London have soared by over a quarter in the past three years, but we are doing little to address this," said Kensington and Chelsea councillor Emma Dent Coad, who recently called on the borough council to introduce a blanket 20mph limit.

"Although some councillors believe that 20mph is, as they have told me, 'unnecessarily slow', it has been proved that 20mph speed limits reduce the number and severity of casualties."

Cyclists in danger

SOME 25,000 cyclists have died on Europe's roads over the past decade, and Britain is making slower progress than its continental neighbours in reducing the death toll.

That is according to a report from the European Transport Safety Council which said that cyclists and pedestrians were "not getting a fair share" of resources.

Within Europe, Britain ranks 23rd for progress in tackling cycling deaths over the period between 2003 and 2013, seeing a fall of less than three per cent, the analysis found.

Antonio Avenoso, the council's executive director, has said: "Despite the health and environmental benefits, people who cycle and walk are not getting a fair share of improvements in road safety in Europe."

Britain has one of the lowest mortality rates for cyclists when measured per million inhabitants, but that does not take into account the number of people who cycle, which is much higher in countries such as the Netherlands.

The UK has among the worst rates in Europe for cyclist deaths caused by crashes with lorries and buses, with 30 per cent of fatalities caused by large vehicles, though they make up less than 10 per cent of traffic on the roads.

Within the EU, only Austria, Slovenia and Romania have made slower progress than Britain in reducing the death toll for cyclists.

■ **WHEELS MEET AGAIN: Alexandra Palace will host Classic & Sports Car – The London Show from October 30 to November 1, with more than 300 classic and vintage cars on display. Timed to dovetail with the London to Brighton run, Regent Street motor show and Bonhams auction of veteran vehicles, the show will feature exhibits from collectors, dealers and car makers alike.**

Landmark buildings agree to bolster internet connectivity

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has announced that three of the capital's most iconic buildings have become the first to officially sign up to an initiative to boost internet connectivity across the city.

The Walkie Talkie building on Fenchurch Street, the Leadenhall Building, often referred to as the Cheesegrater, and City Hall have now signed up to be a part of the capital's first ever Connectivity Ratings Scheme. This initiative from the Mayor will provide businesses of all kinds with a simple way to identify buildings which meet their connectivity needs and encourages landlords to improve the connectivity of their properties.

The trio of buildings join seven others across the capital, including:

■ Beacon Capital Partners – CityPoint
■ Derwent London – Johnson Building, Morelands Building, Tea Building, The Buckley Building
■ Land Securities – 62 Buckingham Gate, One New Change
■ Stanhope: Broadcast Centre

In a bid to boost connectivity across the capital and create transparency about effective and affordable broadband, Mr Johnson has launched the scheme which is now open for companies of all shapes and sizes and property owners to register their interest. He is targeting at least 100 buildings in the capital in its first year of operation.

The Connectivity Ratings Scheme is being delivered by WiredScore, who already operate similar programmes across 30 states in the US including New York, Chicago and San Francisco. The mayor has contributed £50,000 towards the initiative through the London Enterprise Panel.

It will allow property managers to receive a technical assessment by an engineer into the connectivity in their buildings, who will then advise on improvements and provide either a platinum, gold, silver or bronze rating. The rating will be listed on a searchable property directory.

Businesses often move in to premises and then discover they do not have the connectivity that they need. Retrofitting can be expensive and difficult, but the Connectivity Ratings Scheme will solve this by providing the information upfront. This will inform businesses about the connectivity levels of buildings they are considering occupying before they agree to take out a lease and is a choice based on competition and affordability, not just download speeds.

Mr Johnson, said: "My Connectivity Ratings Scheme launched in partnership with WiredScore will not only help businesses to identify where they can achieve the best broadband speeds, it will encourage landlords to up their game in the connectivity stakes.

"By working to deliver world-class affordable connectivity for everyone we are ensuring that London has the digital infrastructure in place to stay ahead of our competitors."

William Newton, WiredScore's UK Director, said: "Our mission at WiredScore is to create a world that is better connected and bring the importance of connectivity to the forefront of the global commercial real estate industry. We are thrilled to work with the Mayor as part of his extraordinary efforts to propel London's technological advancements. With a global marketplace that is dependent on fast, reliable internet, investing in connectivity means investing in the future of London businesses."

The Walkie Talkie and Cheesegrater have both achieved platinum status – the top rating available.

Kaela Fenn-Smith, Head of Commercial at Land Securities, said: "We're really pleased that 20 Fenchurch Street, One New Change and 62 Buckingham Gate are among the first buildings in London to be surveyed by WiredScore and awarded the highest levels of certification. Land Securities is proud of the technical resilience incorporated into our base building design as standard and support the roll-out of an independent, standardised rating which will help our future customers make informed decisions about their offices' digital connectivity."

David Lockyer, Head of Office Asset Management, British Land said: "British Land and Oxford Properties are proud to have achieved a Platinum Connectivity Rating for The Leadenhall Building. It is important for London as a whole to have world-class connectivity, in keeping with its rapidly growing reputation as one of the world's great tech hubs."

BETTER CONNECTED: The Walkie Talkie building.

Chris Carter Keall, Vice President and Head of Asset Management, Oxford Properties Group Europe said: "Oxford Properties believes that outstanding connectivity is one of the key occupier criteria for accommodation in today's ever shrinking global business environment. We are confident that the work we have undertaken with our Partner, British Land, on The Leadenhall Building will ensure that the asset is considered as one of the best connected environments for our occupiers. We are also delighted to support the Mayor of London in championing this new and exciting initiative for London and believe that it will continue to show the city as a world leader."

Chance to taste world cup fever

WITH just a few days to go until the Final of Rugby World Cup 2015, there are still plenty of opportunities to get into the spirit of the tournament.

It has been an unforgettable month already, with Rugby World Cup attendance records being smashed up and down the country. More than two million people have so far attended the 44 Rugby World Cup 2015 matches played in England and Cardiff and over 900,000 fans have enjoyed the 13 matches in London. Fans from around the world have been flocking to official Fanzones in the capital to embrace the tournament's atmosphere – despite England's early departure from the tournament. Over 800,000 fans have enjoyed the celebration of rugby in the various official Fanzones to date.

As the competition draws to a close, this weekend sees the final at the home of rugby, Twickenham, as well as the Bronze Final at the Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Limited tickets are still on sale for the remaining matches via *tickets.rugbyworldcup.com* but for anyone without a ticket, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson is supporting a week-long celebration of rugby in Trafalgar Square, which started on Friday, October 23. People of all ages are welcome to enjoy a variety of rugby themed activities, from touch rugby taster sessions to a live screening of the Final on Saturday, October 31. All events in the square are free.

Mr Johnson said: "This has been the biggest and most successful Rugby World Cup to date and the past five weeks have captivated the whole country and rugby fans across the globe. As this thrilling tournament reaches its climax, come down to Trafalgar Square to be part of this greatest festival of rugby!"

Fight to save health clinic

A SEXUAL health clinic in Kings Cross which was rated "outstanding" by the Care Quality Commission, could be facing closure, it was reported this week.

Margaret Pyke women's health centre is one of three run by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

It opened 45 years ago and was one of the first in the capital to offer women long-term, reversible contraception options such as the pill or coil.

The trust said its funding for sexual health services had been cut and it may have to close the clinic to save money.

Dr Jayne Kavanagh, principal clinical teaching fellow at University College London, is campaigning to save the clinic and told the BBC it was a "centre of excellence" for women's health in terms of the services it provides and its research and training.

It treats hundreds of women each week but the trust said it needed to save £6m in the next two years.

Campaigners have started an online petition to help save the clinic.

Dog bites girl

A CHILD was treated for serious injuries in hospital after being bitten by a bulldog outside a supermarket in west London.

The two-year-old girl was bitten on the arm next to the Asda superstore in Hounslow at about 2.30pm on Sunday.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said she was taken to hospital by paramedics, adding that she had not suffered a "facial mauling".

READERS' LETTERS

LWN

Some cyclists can be a menace

WHILE you all work tirelessly on the safety of cyclists (*Pro-cycling blitz on blackspot junctions*), please can I appeal to everyone to consider the poor pedestrians who have fewer and fewer safe areas to walk.

There is a path from Effie Road, Fulham Broadway to Eel Brook Common. I have been walking through it for years and it was always a no cycling thoroughfare as the cyclists have another designated route nearby.

However, with this new policy of them going where they like, it is *dangerous*. We have children and dogs who stroll through and the cyclist roar through this narrow alleyway like a race track.

I have two friends who have ongoing injuries as a result of this and the protagonist just goes on his merry way with no redress for us.

When a child is killed or injured (which will be soon) there will be a fuss, but no one cares about an injured person or dead and injured dog.

Because cyclists are not indentifiable and don't take responsibility for their actions there are not correct statistics of the havoc they wreak and we are making them believe they have priority of every space and are the most important people on our roads at the expense of everyone else.

I would so appreciate this serious problem we walkers face to be given some thought.

Priscilla Watkins

Great prize from a great paper

THANK YOU very much for my prize, the Kensington Gore book.

I was thrilled to win and am very much looking forward to reading the stories.

Keep up the good work on this newspaper.

Martin Robinson
Holland Park

London Weekly News reader Priscilla Watkins argues on this page that some cyclists pose a genuine danger to walkers, children and dogs. Have your say by emailing *editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk* and mark your email Readers' Letters

DREAM OF OWNING YOUR OWN HOME?

RIGHT TO BUY COULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR YOU

Right to Buy is the scheme that helps eligible council and housing association tenants to buy their home at a discount on the market value.
Since discounts were increased in 2012, over 35,000 people in England have become homeowners through the Right to Buy scheme.
Could this be the right time for you – or somebody you know – to join them?
You can get a maximum of 70% off the price of your home – up to a cash value of £77,900, or £103,900 in London. Each year this discount increases by the rate of inflation.
Recent changes in eligibility mean you now only need to be a secure council tenant for three years instead of five before you can apply to buy your home. So now could be the ideal time to take that next step.
Buying your home is a life-changing decision and a commitment you shouldn't make without seeking expert impartial advice. First you need to find out whether you're eligible and if you can afford it.

Who qualifies for the Right to Buy?
If you're a tenant and can answer 'yes' to the following questions, then you are likely to be eligible to buy your current home through Right to Buy:

- Are you currently a council tenant, or were you living in your home when the council transferred it to another landlord (usually a housing association)?
- Have you been a council or housing association tenant for 3 years or more?
- Can you confirm that you do not live in sheltered housing or other housing designed for elderly or disabled people?

Tenants also need to be free from legal problems with debt or outstanding possession orders, and your home mustn't be due to be demolished.
The government has plans to extend Right to Buy. If you're a housing association tenant and currently not eligible for Right to Buy you can sign up to receive updates on the scheme by visiting our Right to Buy website.
You can also look at other government schemes that might help you on www.ownyourhome.gov.uk.

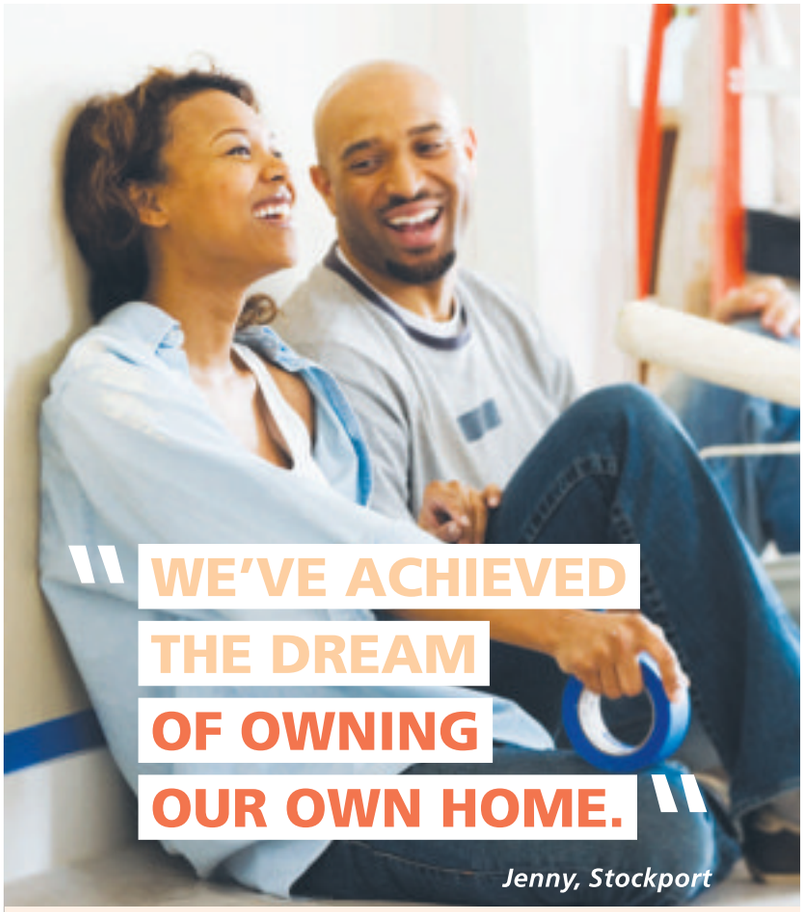
How much does it cost?
Home ownership brings many benefits such as freedom to make changes, a sense of pride and an investment for the future. But it's not the right choice for everyone and one of the biggest questions to answer is 'Can I afford it?'
When you buy a home you need to budget for one-off costs and ongoing costs. And you need to allow for your finances to change in the future.
The one-off costs could include stamp duty, professional fees for a survey, conveyancing and other legal costs. The ongoing costs include mortgage or loan repayments, repairs and maintenance. If the property is leasehold (usually a flat) there will be an annual service charge and ground rent. There is plenty of guidance available to help you add up what this means for you.

Working out your budget
We have an easy-to-use calculator on our website to help you work out what discount you could get and if you can afford to buy.

The Money Advice Service offers free, impartial advice on budgeting, mortgages and other financial matters. You can contact them on 0300 500 5000 or go to their website at www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk.
With the Government's official Right to Buy adviser service, you can get free and impartial advice as well as the help and support you need throughout the process of buying your home from filling in the application form to completing your purchase – if you decide it's the right choice for you. The advisers can provide information on finding a mortgage, appointing a solicitor and arranging a survey.
If you are midway through buying and have a problem, get in touch with the adviser service and they can help you.
The advisers are available from Monday to Friday, 8am until 6pm. You can phone, email or chat online.

What to do next
If you decide that home ownership is the right choice for you, and you want to find out more about Right to Buy, have a look at our website or speak to one of our advisers. If you decide to go ahead you will need to fill in the application form and take the process forward with your landlord.
For more information: Website: www.communities.gov.uk/therighttobuy Phone: 0300 123 0913 Email: enquiry@righttobuyagent.org.uk

NB The quotation and person named in the press advert are from a real case study (used with permission) but the photograph is a stock image.



Have you always wanted to buy the home you live in?

Then Right to Buy could open the door to making it happen. If you've been a council tenant for at least 3 years, you could get a discount of up to £77,900 (or £103,900 if you live in London) towards buying the home you live in.

Find out if you are eligible for a discount and can afford to buy:

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FOR COUNCIL AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION TENANTS

Capital plan to protect venues that provide opportunities for new bands

KEEP MUSIC ALIVE: The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is supporting music venues that have nurtured up and coming bands and provided groups like the Rolling Stones with their first break in the industry.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

IT'S only rock and roll but he likes it – Boris Johnson has come out fighting to save small music venues in Soho and Denmark Street with a new plan to make sure that London does not miss out on rearing the next Rolling Stones.

The Mayor of London is to throw his weight behind campaigns like Save Soho and Save Tin Pan Alley following news that the number of small venues that bring on the next superstars has dropped since 2007 from 136 to just 88 now.

Responding to the recommendations contained within a new report, the London Grassroots Music Venues Rescue Plan, the Mayor is introducing measures to protect small music venues across the capital and safeguard a sector that is worth £600 million in music tourism alone.

"Since 2007 London has lost 35 per cent of its grassroots music venues and it is feared that if this decline continues it could have major implications for the long term future of a creative and cultural sector that feeds into the UK's £3.8 billion music industry," said the Mayor's spokesman.

The Mayor said that small venues must be protected as the capital's little clubs are the training ground for the next big international stars.

He said: "From The Rolling Stones to David Bowie, The Clash to Oasis and Ed Sheeran to Adele, grassroots music venues have played a key role in enabling some of the biggest names in music to develop as artists and to build audiences.

"They are the incubators for the stars that go on to pack stadiums in London and across the world.

"The Music Venues Taskforce report makes it clear that protecting live music venues is crucial to London's continued position as the music capital of the world. This timely report will shape our long term action plan to safeguard and revive London's vital network of live music venues, ensuring the future of the capital's culturally and economically important music scene."

The report was launched last week in historic Denmark Street, which for decades has been associated with the music industry, and is where work is about to begin on central London's first new purpose built live music venue in decades.

Plans by the developer – Consolidated Developments – include creating a new venue underground, next to the new Crossrail Station.

They also propose to retain the former 12 Bar as a grassroots live music venue and to add a brand new underground gig space to the building. Consolidated are working with the GLA and Camden Council to make Denmark Street a thriving "Music Zone" in the heart of London.

The Mayor's new moves to protect small venues include:

■ Support the application of Agent of Change principles. An idea that has proven successful in Australia and Canada, the Agent of Change principle puts the onus on the developer to mitigate against future problems that might emerge between newcomers to an area and a long-standing local venue – for example, over things like noise complaints.

■ A champion for the night time economy. Based on a model established in the Netherlands, the Mayor's Office will investigate the potential of a night economy champion to bring together businesses, residents, local authorities, transport, police and emergency services to build positive relationships, review policies and maximise the potential of a sector that in the UK is worth £66 billion a year.

■ Set up a London Music Development Board, which implement the recommendations in the Rescue Plan. It will be made up of representatives from London's music industry, venues, licensing authorities, police, planning departments and transport authorities, as well as cultural sector funders.

The Mayor's Office spokesman said that it will also continue to work closely with local authorities, developers and the music industry to encourage a pro-culture approach, particularly in areas where there are music zones and clusters for example Camden, Denmark Street, Hackney and Soho.

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Call to equip students for the digital economy

THE British Interactive Media Association is calling on schools in London to help prepare students for future employment in the digital economy by signing up to Digital Day 2015 – the nationwide initiative that brings schools together with the digital industry to raise awareness of digital career opportunities.

Digital Day will take place on November 17 in schools across the capital, when some of the UK's leading digital industry professionals will be giving students an insight into life in the digital sector and advice on the jobs that exist within the digital economy.

Students will also be able to enter the BIMA Digital Day national competition, taking part in workshops to create new digital ideas and concepts in response to three different challenges which cover the areas of mobile, social media and connected devices.

Each school will submit their top entry to be judged by a panel of industry experts and sponsors including Standard Life and Sony Music on board so far. The winning team will be awarded the Digital Day Grand Prix.

This year BIMA has developed Digital Day to also run as a virtual event so that even more schools are able to participate. Teachers now have the flexibility to run the Digital Day competition challenges with students over a series of lessons, at after school events or however they prefer.

At last year's D-Day event, 4,000 students from 100 schools across the UK got the chance to work with mentors from 100 of the leading digital agencies. This year the aim is to have over 10,000 students taking part.

"BIMA's Digital Day is an initiative directly aimed at preparing the next generation of school leavers and university graduates for employment in the digital sector, which is due for incredible growth as the internet economy is expected to continue building on its £180 billion contribution to the UK economy this year," said a spokesman.

"A study by O2 in 2013 estimated that the UK will need 750,000 more digitally-skilled workers in order to meet this opportunity, and a recent Tech Nation 2015 report projected over 5 per cent digital employment growth by 2020."

Earlier this year, a House of Lords Select Committee report 'Make or Break: The UK's Digital Future' echoed the need for better digital skills and careers awareness in order to "seize the opportunity to secure the UK's place as a global digital leader", and a recent study from Creative Skillset highlighted that "a lot more needs to be done to provide a visible range of paid career paths".

A survey conducted by digital marketing and technology consultancy Amaze in conjunction with BIMA found that 87 per cent of young people participating in Digital Day 2013 were now more likely to consider a career in digital.

Natalie Gross, BIMA executive committee member and CEO of digital agency Amaze, said: "The digital industry in the UK is world-class and a significant employer; it is a vibrant sector with thousands of people working in agencies, technology companies, established businesses, start-ups and within the public sector.

"There are fantastic opportunities for young people – from social media and app development to digital design – but there is a lack of awareness about digital career opportunities. BIMA Digital Day offers inspiration, practical advice and a hands-on experience that will get young people excited about a future as part of the digital economy."

Schools can sign up by submitting details on the BIMA Digital Day website – *www.bimadday.org.uk*

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Tel: 020 7499 8043 or Email: info@richardjohnclarke.com

Richard John Clarke
Chartered Surveyors

ThirskWinton LLP

Inspirational career advice for youngsters

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DESIGNER Wayne Hemingway, Paralympian rugby player Andy Barrow and TV presenter Michael Absalom and were amongst some of the capital's business leaders and professionals who gave 600 young people the benefit of their career experience in the largest speed networking event of its kind ever to take place in the UK.

On Thursday, October 22, the Mayor's Team London volunteering initiative, in partnership with Marylebone Cricket Club's Community Development team, brought together over 600 tech experts, creative leaders and top entrepreneurs, with over 600 schoolchildren aged 13-15 from across the capital, for a unique event at Lord's cricket ground.

Research by the CBI has found the overwhelming majority of employers think careers advice in schools is not up to scratch and more needs to be done to ensure pupils are aware of the knowledge and skills they will need for the world of work. With 77 per cent of bosses and industry leaders feeling the quality of careers advice received is not good enough, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson is supporting efforts to prepare the capital's teenagers as they begin thinking about careers and employment after they leave school.

Twitter, British Airways, ASOS, Harrods, The British Library and Christie's Auction House are among the organisations that gave advice to the young Londoners at the gathering, with hundreds of the capital's professionals sharing their insight, know-how and top tips with young people in speed networking sessions lasting four minutes.

Mr Johnson said: "It is absolutely vital that we give young Londoners the right knowledge and skills to compete in the global marketplace. What better way for schoolchildren to find out about the range of careers on offer in our great city than hearing from the professionals who can bring personal insight as well as expertise?"

Thursday's event also marked the launch of Team London's Enterprise Advisers initiative, which recruits business volunteers to support teachers to offer effective careers education to young Londoners.

Senior professionals will be working on a one-to-one basis with teachers in schools across the capital over the next year, giving careers advice, an understanding of the skills that are needed by employers and connecting them with London's business community to open up apprenticeship and job opportunities for students.

The Mayor's Office said the event built on Team London's existing programmes, ensuring more young Londoners are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need for the world of work. It is claimed to have already supported 350 young Londoners directly into work and improved over 60,000 young Londoners' employability prospects.

Claudia Harris, chief executive at The Careers & Enterprise Company said: "This is a fantastic event and shows how serious London's business and education communities are about bridging young people into the world of work. It is the perfect way to launch the Enterprise Adviser network which uses relationships between business volunteers and school and college leadership teams to establish and strengthen this bridge."

The event also highlighted just one of the ways that people in work or with a limited amount of time can help others or benefit their community through speed volunteering, where they commit a small amount of time that suits their schedule. Team London will be launching its new smartphone app to showcase the range of speed volunteering opportunities available across the capital, from helping out with a charity's strategy during lunch, to providing literacy support after work.

EXPERIENCED: Designer Wayne Hemingway, above, and Paralympian Andy Barrow, inset left, offered career advice to young Londoners.

Mr Johnson added: "I am delighted that so many people who are already working or heading up organisations were prepared to give their time to help the next generation of workers. It's a terrific example of the contribution that professionals can give through volunteering, even if they only have a small amount of time."

Derek Brewer, MCC chief executive and secretary, said: "I'm pleased that such an important event was hosted at Lord's. We're delighted to be working closely with Team London, which adds to our existing work with a number of local organisations to help provide opportunities for local young people seeking employment and careers advice – some of which will be in the sports industry. Hosting this event is another example of our commitment to engaging with our local community. I am grateful to the huge number of businesses and MCC staff who are giving up their time for this event, and I hope the young people who attend take a lot from it."

Retirement looms for faithful duo who delivered ruff justice

THEY have helped make the streets of Westminster, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham safe for the last six and a half years, but now top 'cops' Ron and Buddy have stopped pounding the beat.

They have both retired from the City of London police and their familiar faces will be missed by hundreds of residents and businesses.

But these are not ordinary policemen – these are two of the force's highly trained dogs who are now enjoying retirement as pets of city officers.

Both dogs completed basic training in 2009 and were deployed in the violent G20 protests and also worked together during the London riots of August 2011.

PD Ron has been handled by PC Craig Albon for the whole of his service and PD Buddy has been with his handler PC Colin Northcott for the past three years. PC Albon recently received a commendation for catching a prolific burglar with the help of Ron. Both Ron and Buddy have been successful in detaining various burglars and criminals running from stolen cars. Buddy also helped with tracking and locating the getaway driver from a smash and grab raid at a luxury watch shop in the Westfield shopping centre in 2013.

The dogs regularly helped officers on public order night-time duties.

PC Albon said: "Both dogs will be missed not just by Colin and myself, but also our families and the officers they support on uniformed policing and across the city."

PC Albon and PC Northcott will shortly start their basic training with two new recruits, PD Luther and PD Maximilian.

HOUNDING THE BEAT: Police dogs Ron and Buddy are looking forward to retirement from the force.

New boats on Thames duty

TWO new high speed catamarans that have travelled over 15,000 miles from where they were built in Tasmania, Australia, arrived in their new home on the River Thames in central London last week.

The £6.5 million investment in new vessels by owners, MBNA Thames Clippers, represents a significant enhancement to London's transport infrastructure and river travel in particular. It is the latest step in a series of boosts to river transport in the capital, with the forthcoming opening of the new Plantation Wharf Pier and the installation of Oyster card pay as you go readers at all piers served by river bus services, making it even easier for the growing number of passengers to use.

The 150-passenger, 35-metre long ultra-high specification twin catamarans – Galaxy Clipper and Neptune Clipper – are the first new boats to be added to the popular MBNA Thames Clippers river bus service in seven years. Lightweight and with a sleek hull, the vessels are claimed to be the most efficient and technically advanced river buses on the Thames. They will add extra capacity to the popular RB6 route from Blackfriars to Putney, which has already seen a 40 per cent increase in passenger journeys in the last 12 months. They will also provide extra capacity on other routes during periods of high demand.

The River Thames is a major contributor to London's economy and according to the latest Port of London Authority research, delivers £4 billion in gross added value to the UK, and supports in excess of 43,000 jobs. There is predicted to be £1 billion worth of investment in and around the tidal Thames – which covers the 95 miles of river for Teddington Lock to the North Sea – over the next five years.

Gem stores refurbished

TOP jeweller Goldsmiths has confirmed it is investing over £1million in its London stores, with a refurbishment programme of its premises in Canary Wharf, Victoria and Westfield, as well as announcing the addition of a new fourth store on Oxford Street.

Each store offers a wide selection of diamond and gold jewellery, renowned watch brands and a wide choice of services which will cater to the brand's growing London customer base.

Goldsmiths boasts over 230 years of tradition and experience and is now one of the largest jewellers in the UK, with over 100 showrooms nationwide. Each of Goldsmiths 1,400 staff are trained to a rigorous standards before they take to the showroom floor, gaining an extensive knowledge of the comprehensive world of watches and jewellery.

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Great to be back in an area I love

Alan Brown, Westway Trust's newly-appointed Chair, reflects on the opportunities for the charity and the community it serves

AS I reach the end of my first month as the new Chair of the Westway Trust, I would like to share with you my first impressions and also touch on our plans to help improve the area for the benefit of the community.

My family's connection with the Westway goes back to around 1870 when my great, great grandfather moved from Wales and moved into a house in Faraday Road. As a child, I used to visit my great aunts, who continued to live in the family home, until it was the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order at the time when the Westway was under construction.

When I first came to London to work in 1974 I lived above an antique shop in the Portobello Road, and I have lived in and around the area for much of the time since then. Like so many of you, I have witnessed many changes, not all of them for the better. Personally, I would like to have back my favorite neighbourhood restaurant of the 1970's, L'Artiste Asoiffé, with the resident angry parrot that took a bite out of any customer who got too close.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to support the Westway Trust, and through it the community that it serves. The work the Trust undertakes is extremely important and there is a very real, and increasing, need to enable people that live in the neighbourhood to get ahead in life.

As I write these notes, I am in the middle of meeting with my fellow Trustees who, like me, are all unpaid volunteers. I'm also getting to know the Trust's member organisations that do so much good work in the area, and, of course, the staff of the Trust.

A number of themes are emerging. One of these is the importance of good communications; engaging with and listening to partners and the communities around us. Making sure that local needs are reflected in the Trust's decision-making is something it works hard at, and is continually looking to improve.

Another recurring issue is the environment. This is a heavily built up area. Pollution from the motorway and other sources is a real threat. Wearing another hat, I am Chairman of CDP, a climate change organisation, so environmental concerns are important to me.

And the third area of concern is the ever more acute funding challenges that local charities and voluntary organisations face. I was impressed to learn that the Westway Trust Board has recently approved a proposal that sees 10% of net property surpluses reinvested into community grants each year.

The Trust therefore is well placed to help alleviate some of the funding challenges faced by investing this income from commercial rents in community benefit grants and subsidised accommodation for local charities.

In all my meetings and conversations so far, I have been hugely impressed by how passionately people care about the Trust and the breadth of support we are able to offer the local community through such things as the learning programmes, employment and training opportunities, health and fitness, and arts and culture.

But it is also clear that we can and should do better. Parts of our estate are frankly tired, reflecting the fact that some were originally built decades ago.

We must improve the quality of the buildings and the green and open spaces that we manage.

The spaces under and alongside the Westway have a complex pattern of ownership between the Trust and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and we will need to collaborate with the borough to realise the opportunities for improving the environment and the public realm.

As you will probably know, this weekly column is normally written by Angela McConville, our Chief Executive. I believe that she, along with my fellow Trustees, has a clear vision, borne out of engagement with the community, for what it is we need to do over the next 15 years.

We are very committed to listening to the many interested groups and individuals in the area and doing the very best we can for people locally.

I have committed the first few months of my term to listening. I want to meet as many local residents, partners, businesses and community groups as possible to hear views about how we best move forward.

Over the coming weeks I will be at events such as the Supplementary Schools Awards, the Trust's Annual General Meeting, and Westway Trust Christmas Festival. I hope to meet many of you there to continue the dialogue.

■ VISION: Alan Brown, Westway Trust's newly-appointed Chair.

Science festival proves a success

ONCE again the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council's annual festival of science provided a thought-provoking and stimulating opportunity to learn about science and technology and the practical ways their benefits can be harnessed.

Distinguished speakers, many of them leaders in their field of expertise, held the attention of audiences drawn from across the borough and beyond, the council has repoprted.

The free talks and events were organised by Councillor Warwick Lightfoot, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy, who said: "I'm very grateful to the excellent speakers who gave up their time to take part in what was another successful Celebration of Science."

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

London Weekly News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
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Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road	SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

Win tickets to exhibition

WIN a pair of tickets to West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song at the British Library

An exhibition of literature and music – from the great African empires of the Middle Ages to the cultural dynamism of West Africa today.

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Exhibition Open Until 16 February 2016. For more information and to book tickets visit *www.bl.uk*.

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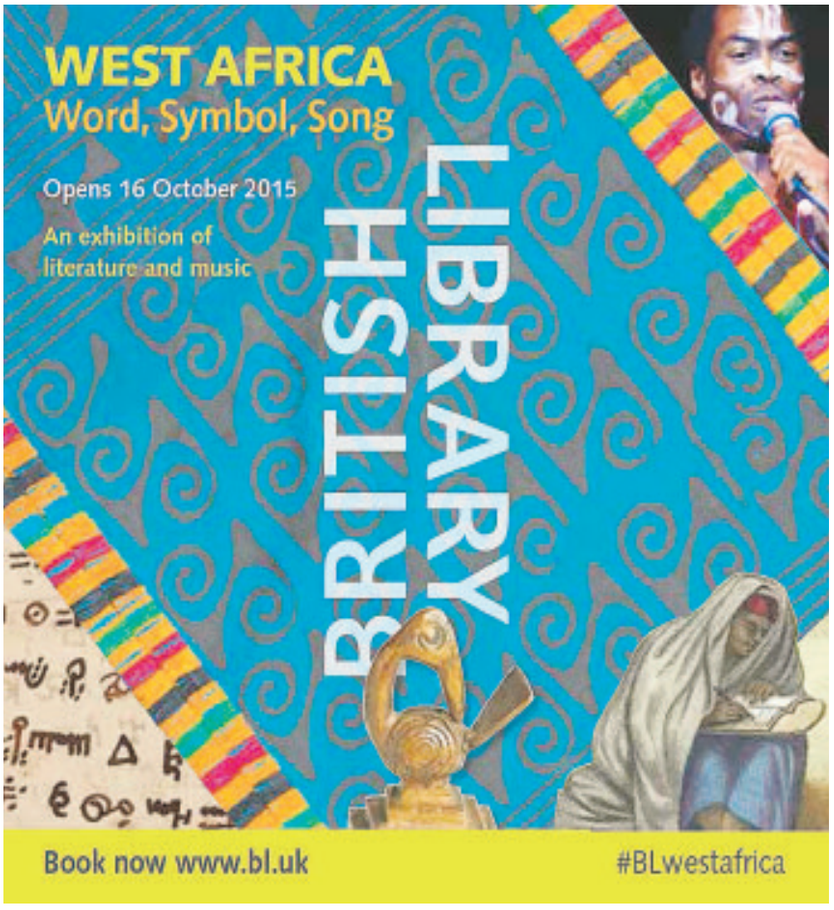

Take afternoon tea, shaken not stirred, at the 108 Pantry

108 PANTRY is set to shake up its traditional afternoon tea with the launch of a bespoke James Bond offering from now onwards.

Featuring an edible cigar, delicious poker chip cookies and the option to indulge with a Vesper Martini, it's the perfect way to celebrate the latest James Bond film *Spectre*.

Executive Chef Russell Ford will be introducing the James Bond twist to 108's traditional afternoon tea menu for a limited time only, until Sunday, November 1. This will coincide with the world premiere of *Spectre*, the 24th instalment of the epic franchise that features James Bond's first encounter with the global criminal agency known as SPECTRE.

Using his modern British style, Russell will treat guests to an array of delicious treats, savoury and sweet, from £28 per person. Guests who wish to truly indulge can include a Vesper martini, the cocktail which James Bond invented in Casino Royale – three parts Gin, one part Vodka and a half part Lillet Blanc - for £38. Guests can enjoy an array of savoury delicacies including a blini topped with vodka and beetroot cured salmon and caviar, a baked ham and mustard sandwich, an open roast beef sandwich with potato salad and watercress, a Dorset crab and avocado club sandwich and 108's classic plain scones.

There's also a gorgeous selection of sweet treats and pastries which include; a chocolate, raspberry and honeycomb mini martini – James Bond's preferred drink (shaken not stirred), chocolate and matcha tea poker chip cookies referencing Casino Royale in 2006 and a Ginger brandy snap cigar served with a passion fruit cream with a chilli kick, reminiscent of Raoul's Cigar Factory in *Die Another Day*. So whether you are a Fleming fanatic or just looking for something a little bit different the James Bond Afternoon Tea at 108 Pantry has something for everyone. To book this exclusive James Bond Afternoon Tea, diners should call visit *www.108brasserie.com*

IN THE PICTURE: The Lord Mayor of Westminster – Cllr Christabel Flight – unveiled a pop art portrait of the Paddington Youth Enterprise Trees4Xmas project group by the artist Tim Stocks earlier this month, at the food entrepreneurs' enterprise Maida Hill Place in Fernhead Road. Tim's painting depicts the youth group using imagery from popular culture, advertising and news. Pop art often refers not as much to the art itself as to the attitudes behind the art – taking inspiration from material sometimes visually removed from its known context, isolated and/or combined with unrelated material. The Lord Mayor had this to say about the painting: "As someone who has worked for Sotheby's I have maintained a real interest in paintings. Tim's style is both unique and special."

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

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Wealthy Chinese jet-setters aspire to Royal family brand

Palace 'ku' makes Queen style leader

CHEERS: The Queen shares a toast with Chinese President Xi-Jinping last week.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MOVE over Cara Delevingne – now it's "ku" Britannia as The Queen has emerged as the No 1 style icon in the biggest consumer market in the world.

Almost 50 per cent of the upwardly-aspiring women of China say that when it comes to fashion and style Her Majesty and her family set the trend in the booming economy where The Queen is widely-regarded as "ku", meaning cool.

Following President Xi's state visit last week, exports of UK luxury items are expected to soar even more in the Chinese market as millions aspire to the royal look.

"Chinese shoppers are turning to Royal Warrant products and services. With the attitude, 'if it's good enough for Queen Elizabeth, it's good enough for me', Chinese customers are stocking up on royalty-endorsed goods," says Bernice Chan of *The South China Morning Post*.

Although Western tastes are influenced by Ms Delevingne, pop stars and TV celebrities, a recent survey by the influential Fortune magazine revealed that in the East it's 'Queen Elizabeth The Ku' who counts the most.

"One of the most influential factors influenc-

TURN TO PAGE 2

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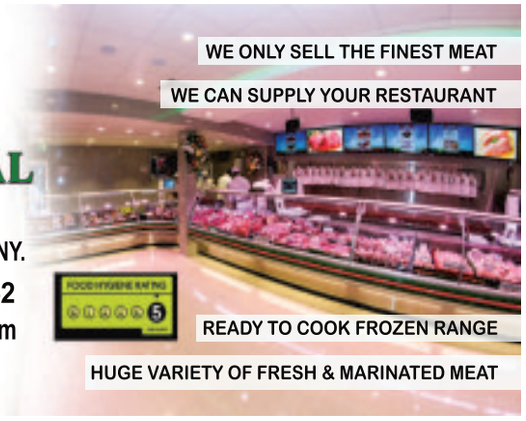

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ROYAL LONDON

Camilla's charity challenges young authors

Duchess on write track to improve children's literacy

BY GEOFF BAKER
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cause one's worth it", let alone "Beanz Meanz Queenz".

THE Arts Council has given £600,000 to a literacy charity championed by the Duchess of Cornwall to help her relentless drive to improve children's reading and writing.

More than 60,000 children left primary school last year unable to read and write to the required level and the Duchess is determined to bring that number down.

As Britain's leading campaigner for children's literacy, Camilla is the royal patron of five charities committed to improving reading and writing; the National Literacy Trust, the Book Trust, First Story, the Wicked Young Writers' Award and Beanstalk.

The Arts Council grant will enable First Story to expand its national creative writing programme and reach an extra 11,500 young people whom the charity is encouraging to write. Over the next three years First Story will publish 76 anthologies and more than 25,000 new stories and poems.

"We also intend to launch a National Writing Day aimed at every school-age child, and thereby intend to sharpen and amplify the profile of creative writing on the national arts and educational agenda," said a spokesman.

Now the Duchess's charity has launched a competition to encourage creativity and writing skills across the UK.

"We're inviting students from all secondary state schools across the country to submit 850 words or less of poetry or prose on the theme of 'Echoes'," said the spokesman.

"Students can explore this theme and its associations in any way they choose: we're looking forward to seeing imaginative and innovative entries."

Three winners of the competition will have their stories published by *The Sunday Times* and will also earn a place on a creative writing residential course. The deadline for entries is December 4th and more information is at www.firststory.org.uk

Meanwhile, the Duchess is backing an appeal for volunteers to help with another of her literacy projects, Beanstalk.

The charity is looking for more reading helpers who will each support three children aged from five to 11, seeing each of them for two 30-minute sessions each week in their school.

"Being unable to read well can have severe consequences on a child's future – causing them to fall behind in their education, suffer from a lack of self-confidence and have limited employment prospects," said a Beanstalk spokesman.

"But after just three terms of support, 93 per cent of Beanstalk-supported children make meaningful improvement in their reading attainment and confidence."

■ LITERACY CHAMPION: Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

As a new survey has bolstered fears that video games are having a damaging effect on literacy, the Duchess's drive to bring children back to books is achieving still greater importance.

The National Children's Bureau of Northern Ireland last week published the results of research which showed that children who play video games twice a day are less likely to achieve five good grades at GCSE.

Their study of young teenagers showed that 77 per cent of those who used portable gaming machines only once a week achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A to C. But the pass rate among those who play video games at least twice a day dropped to 41 per cent.

No wonder that the next Queen is so eager to improve literacy and she has called on other grandparents to help the campaign by reading the likes of Beatrix Potter to their children's children.

"In a world where the written word competes with so many other calls on our attention, we need more literacy heroes to keep inspiring young people to find the pleasure and power of reading for themselves," said the Duchess.

"Let us remember that reading is not only a source of pleasure, but also a vital skill that those of us, who are fortunate enough to possess it, take for granted. It is shocking to learn that there are so many people, even today, who are deprived of that advantage. The latest figures from the National Literacy Trust show that nearly 15 per cent, or about five million adults in England, have literacy levels below those expected of an 11-year-old.

"I was lucky enough to have a father who was a fervent bibliophile and a brilliant storyteller too. He read to us each night and transported us into different worlds – from the irresistible lure of Mr McGregor's garden to battles for Toad Hall or close encounters with the dreaded Captain Hook.

"Every book was a promise of something new and exciting and he passed that love of reading on to me, and now I get as much pleasure reading to my grandchildren as I do getting lost in my own favourite writers. The power of great literature is immense, a key to other kingdoms, an escape from the dull and mundane.

"That is why every opportunity to trumpet the importance of books and reading is so crucial. And it is worth reminding

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Queen leads style council

FROM PAGE 1

ing the Chinese purchase of luxuries is a royal connection," says Fortune. "Whatever The Queen wears or has instantly increases its value. We found that if a dress is worn by royalty then 47 per cent of Chinese women aged 23 to 32 said it increases the likelihood of them buying it too."

As China now has more billionaires than any other country, overtaking the USA this month with 596 super-rich, the influence of The Queen's style is good news for the 686 companies that hold her Royal Warrant.

Firms including Cornelia James [gloves], Lock & Co [hats], Floris [perfume], Barbour and The Queen's corsetiere Rigby & Peller are set to do well from having Her Majesty as the face of their fashion.

"Timeless elegance is the very essence of luxury and in China it is distinctively associated with The Queen and the Royal Family. In luxury brand marketing, heritage is a critical resource and is perceived as a key attribute of brand authenticity and aura," says Professor Qing Wang, who teaches Buyer Behaviour at Warwick University Business School.

"The Queen embodies history and heritage. Whatever the Queen wears, eats, visits or even holds on to instantly increases in value, and all this is mostly British. Whatever is seen on or near the Queen is instantly desired by millions; Lock & Co hats, Cornelia James gloves and Ettinger bags have all gained in prestige and sales by Her Majesty wearing them."

■ FASHION ICON: The Queen leads, the Chinese follow.

Professor Wang surveyed high and middle income consumers in 15 cities in China. When asked what were the most important factors [besides quality and status symbolism] that influenced their decision to buy luxuries, the royal connection was a deciding factor.

"In the context of the Chinese consumer market, the UK monarchy is evidently worth big bucks," says Professor Wang.

Clearly Downing Street is completely sold on this sales potential of the royals, which is why The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Andrew and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were all encouraged to trot out for President Xi's visit last week.

"Emerging markets like China offer huge potential for luxury marketers where advertising efforts should focus on 'selling the dream' and creating stronger ties with the super-rich," says Professor Wang.

Although China's value to the UK economy is important, it is hoped that the 'focus of advertising efforts' does not sell the royals too much; few would welcome ad slogans like "be-

Could separation frustrate Queen's highland visits?

ROYAL LONDON

Restless Scots pose Balmoral question

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE continuing calls for Scotland to have another vote for independence could lead to The Queen having to get Downing Street's permission to visit her own house.

As Scottish nationalists are wanting a second referendum on breaking away from the UK, constitutional experts have warned that a separation would mean that The Queen would have to get the Prime Minister's OK every time she wants to take her summer holidays at Balmoral.

The surprise snag in the devolution argument was revealed last week in a BBC Radio 4 programme when presenter Edward Stourton hosted an examination of the growing popularity of the Republican movement.

"If it had been a yes vote and the Scots had broken away, it would mean that if The Queen wanted to go to Balmoral it would become a State Visit," said royal historian Christopher Lee. "She would have to ask permission to go to Scotland to visit her own home."

Although the Scots say they want to keep The Queen as their monarch if devolution was voted for, Her Majesty would be in the same position as she is in Australia, where she is also head of State.

"If she wants to go to Australia, it would have to be as a State Visit. So the constitutional side of The Queen going to Scotland after devolution is that it would become an official visit because she would be going into an independent state," said Mr Lee.

■ **OUT OF BOUNDS? Could Balmoral become a diplomatic challenge for the royals?**

With the British Labour Opposition now having its first Republican leader since the Party's founder Keir Hardie, Republicanism is trending again. In the UK, the trend has far to go as more than 70 per cent of Brits say they still want a monarchy. But in principal parts of the Commonwealth the continued importance of the royals is not so assured.

Australia is now led by a Republican. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was chairman of the Australian Republican Movement and now every premier of each state Down Under is a Republican too.

"The stars of the Southern Cross are now aligned like never before in pointing towards an Australian republic," said Peter FitzSimons, the new chief of the movement.

There's new Republican rumblings in Canada too. Canada's *National Post* reports that a new survey has revealed that most Canadians don't want Prince Charles to be their king.

"Only 34 per cent agree that Prince Charles should become Canada's next head of state, according to a recent Forum Research survey of Canadians," reports the newspaper.

"That's up slightly from the 31 per cent who supported a possible King Charles III in May of this year, and about the same as the 33 per cent who supported his maybe-one-day reign in July 2013.

"The good news for the monarch-in-waiting is that fewer Canadians outright oppose his ascension than in previous surveys. Just 45 per cent now "disagree" with the idea of Prince Charles taking over from the Queen, compared to 54 per cent in May and 53 per cent in July 2013."

Forum Research's president Lorne Bozinoff added: "His negatives have dropped below half, but it still doesn't look that good for the heir to our throne when more people don't want him to serve his constitutional duty than want him to."

However, royal watchers predict that Prince Charles will redress the balance of a revived Republicanism in "the colonies" when he and the Duchess of Cornwall visit New Zealand and Australia next month and include a crowd-pleasing beach barbee in their schedule.

It will be Prince Charles's 15th visit to Australia, where the Royal couple will mark the centenary of Gallipoli by visiting the new National Anzac Centre in Albany, get a taste of regional life in the South Australian town of Tanunda and the prince's 67th birthday with Western Australian families at a beachside barbeque on Perth's Cottesloe beach.

The beach is the same one that became famous in 1979 when a bikini-clad Australian model, Jane Priest, ran up to the then-single prince, to give him a cuddle and a peck on the cheek as he came out of the surf in his swimming trunks.

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

October 27th

■ **The Queen** will give a reception at St. James's Palace for representatives of Commonwealth Organisations.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, Gallipoli Association, will attend a lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly.

■ **The Countess of Wessex** will attend the Women of the Future Summit at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

■ **The Princess Royal** will visit a Pocket Living Show Flat at Marcon Place E8.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Master, the Corporation of Trinity House, will attend a lunch at Trinity House, Tower Hill.

■ **The Duchess of Cambridge** will visit Chance UK at Islington Town Hall.

■ **The Duchess of Cambridge**, as Patron, 100 Women in Hedge Funds' Philanthropic Initiatives and The Art Room, will attend a dinner in support of The Art Room at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

October 28th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Honorary Life Member, Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, will present The Prince Philip Award at Buckingham Palace.

■ **ON DUTY: The Duchess of Gloucester is at the opera.**

October 29th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend receptions for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award, at St James's Palace.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, the Honourable Company of Air Pilots, will attend a dinner at the Guildhall, Gresham Street EC2.

■ **The Duke of Kent** will attend a Service of Commemoration for the 600th Anniversary of Agincourt at Westminster Abbey.

October 30th

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as President, Royal Academy of Music,will attend a performance of *Le nozze di Figaro* by the Royal Academy Opera at the Hackney Empire.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will attend a dinner to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the Charge of the Union Brigade at the Battle of Waterloo, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly.

October 31st

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh** will attend the Rugby World Cup Final and Closing Ceremony at Twickenham Stadium.

November 3rd

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Field Marshal, will attend the Senior Serving and Retired Officers' Briefing at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.

■ **The Countess of Wessex** will chair a Charities Forum at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron, Caring for Life, will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Countess of Wessex** will attend the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year dinner at Claridges.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as President, Royal Academy of Music, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Duke of Kent** will attend the Senior Serving and Retired Officers' Briefing at The Army and Navy Club Pall Mall.

SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

TV's two-hour salute to songwriting icons

Genius born out of necessity: the write way to musical fame

by Geoff Baker

AS was often the case with The Beatles, their rise to become the greatest song-makers of the 20th century was in part a matter of luck.

In the case of the writing partnership of Lennon and McCartney, it was a matter of bad luck.

Had ill fortune not repeatedly rained on the band in their early days, we might never have heard *Let It Be* or *In My Life* or *Here Comes The Sun*. Instead, they may have just become yet another of the beat groups from the Sixties which have almost entirely faded away now.

That The Beatles and their adulation thrived and has survived is because of their songs; they were so good, so different, that 45 years after the group split up the Fabs are still universally agreed to be the best band that ever was, is and quite probably ever will be.

I can't remember who first said this during my years at Apple Corps, it was probably my then boss, the press officer Derek Taylor, as he had the sort of rapier-sharp perception to have noticed it, but something different happens when somebody puts on a Beatles song.

"If you go to a wedding party and they play a Stones record or a Led Zeppelin song or pretty much any other hit, lots of people get up to dance. If it's a fast song they jig about, if it's a slow one, they smooch. But if you put on a Beatles record, something different happens – everybody stops dancing and the whole room sings it."

Yet it all could have been completely different, if The Beatles had had better luck in their early days.

"Before we started writing our own songs we'd do these gigs with other bands going on before us and it was often our luck that we'd both have some of the same songs in our sets," says Paul McCartney.

"The band on before us would do a particular song and our faces would drop – 'Oh no, that's our opening number!'

"So the only way to get around that, and to try to stand out as being different from these other bands, was for us to write our own original stuff. That's why John and I started songwriting really, it was just a matter of necessity."

As it happens and as we know, necessity in this case became the mother of genius; Paul and John had a magical ability to compose classics and in the only eight or so years of the band they, along with George, wrote around 230 songs, of which most are world standards.

■ **ICONS: The Beatles endure as the 20th century's greatest melody makers.**

To celebrate the Lennon and McCartney benchmark that nobody has ever rivalled since, next month ITV is to present a Beatles Night; a two-hour spectacular on the songs that changed the sound of music and the stories behind them.

Conveniently, all of the songs from the programme will feature on the new CD and DVD and Blu-ray releases of the remixed album *The Beatles 1*. Few other bands can command two hours of prime-time TV to promote a new release, but again that's just Beatles luck. Or somebody working towards a deserved rise in the promotion department.

The Beatles have admitted that they had a good whack of fair fortune in becoming the phenomenon that they did. Paul often likes to point out that had it not been for the lucky break of the Government abolishing conscription shortly before they started, the band would not have ever been, as instead of gigging they would have been broken up to go off and serve in various regiments around the world.

Another bit of luck was having Prime Minister Harold Wilson model himself as a fan. Wilson decided to help the band to the top because whilst they may or may not have taught the world to sing, the Labour leader was determined that, for the sake of the British economy, they would teach the world to speak English.

When Wilson's Labour Party won the 1964 general election it did so by the skin of its teeth, with a majority of only four seats. In order to try to bolster its slim popularity, Wilson set out to ally the party with the emerging teenage culture, best represented by The Beatles, and so the Prime Minister surprisingly popped up at the Variety Club Awards that year to be photographed with the band.

But there was a bigger game at play in Whitehall. Wilson's "New Britain" was in competition for global trade sales and influence with its old rival France. It is said in Beatles circles that Downing Street had a brainwave – that a good way to affect influence in developing countries and trade partners was to get them to speak your language, and a great way to spread English, over French, was through the Beatles songs that increasing parts of the world were singing.

And so The Beatles were officially pushed by Whitehall; British embassies, traditionally closed to scruffs from Liverpool, were opened up for receptions for them, royalty was encouraged to meet them and in 1965 the Establishment made the band even more of their own by controversially awarding each of them the MBE.

But there was no luck involved in the songwriting, the genius of which frequently stemmed from Paul and John's canny ears for inspiration and their love of word play.

"It was like *Hard Day's Night*, that came from something Ringo said," says Paul.

"Ringo was always coming out with these little malapropisms – another of his was 'slight bread', at a meal he'd say 'I'd like slight bread'. Anyway, this time after a concert he said 'Phew, it's been a hard day's night…' John and I went, 'What? What did you say? Hard day's night!' Brilliant, we had a start for a song. John and I were always looking for good titles like that because once you've got a good title, if someone says 'What's your new song?' if you have a title that interests people, you are halfway there.

"If you called it *I Am On My Way To A Party With You Babe*, they might say, 'OK…' But if you've called it *Eight Days A Week*, they say 'Oh yes, that's good'.

Eight Days A Week is a good example of how we got inspiration. I remember writing that with John at his place in Weybridge. A chauffeur drove me out there one day and I said 'How've you been?'

"'Oh, working hard', he said, 'I've been working eight days a week'. I'd never heard anyone use that expression so when I arrived at John's house I said, 'Hey, this fella just said eight days a week. John said, 'Right – Ooh I need your love babe' and we wrote it. We were always quick to write, we could write on the spot.

"So we would often start with a title. I would turn up at John's house, he'd get up when I arrived. I'd have a cup of tea and a bowl of cornflakes with him and we'd go into a little room, get our guitars out and kick things around. It would come very quickly and in two or three hours I'd leave."

Of course sometimes in their songwriting the melody came first, like the time when Paul woke up in Jane Asher's parents' home in Wimpole Street with the tune of *Yesterday* in his head.

Although on that occasion the completed song didn't come fast; he spent weeks asking people if they had heard this tune before, as he could not believe he had just dreamed it, and while he waited to find the lyrics for the song that has become the most radio-played of all time he made do with his initial opening lines, 'Scrambled eggs, oh my baby how I love your legs'.

On other occasions, Beatles songs came simply from the band's great competitiveness.

"I remember reading an interview with Pete Townshend in which he described The Who's new single, *I Can See For Miles*, as the loudest, rawest, dirtiest and most uncompromising song they had ever done," says Paul. "Just that one little paragraph was enough to inspire me. So I sat down to write *Helter Skelter* to be the most raucous vocal, the loudest drums, et cetera.

"I went into the studio with the guys and said, 'Look, I've read this thing. Let's do it!' We got the drum sound hiked up to be as loud and horrible as it could be and played it, but it sounded too safe.

"So we tried everything we could to make it louder and dirtier and in the end you can hear Ringo say on the record, 'I've got blisters on my fingers'. That wasn't a joke put-on; he'd been drumming so ferociously that his hands were actually bleeding at the end of the take."

So, when ITV screens *The Nation's Favourite Beatles Number One* next month, what will it be? The very idea is bound to start intense arguments; will be it be John's at-the-time-ignored heart cry *Help!*, George's *Something* or Paul's *The Long And Winding Road*?

Judging by previous polls the smart money will be going on Paul's *Hey Jude*, the seven-minute anthem which, on its release, radio stations complained was too long to play.

Paul retorted: "Well just play the first three minutes then, but I think people will want to hear the whole song."

And consequent sales of more than eight million copies rather proved him right.

Hey Jude was another song that Paul wrote in the back of a car while driving down to John's place. It was after John's divorce from Cynthia and, because he always feels most sorry for the children of any divorce, he wrote it as a salve for their son Julian.

"I started with the idea 'Hey Jules' but I changed it to Jude as I thought that sounded a bit better. By the time I got to his house I had the idea, but I finished it at my place in London and played it to John and Yoko when they came to visit.

"When I got to the line 'the movement you need is on your shoulder', which I thought sounded like a parrot, I said to him, 'don't worry, I'll change that, it's a bit crummy, I was just blocking it out'. And John said, 'You won't, you know. That's the best line in the song.'

"That's collaboration, when someone is so firm about a line that you were going to junk, and because of that I love those words now.

"When I sing it, it's at that line when I think of John; it's an emotional point in the song for me and I've been known to well up when I sing it."

■ **The Nation's Favourite Beatles Number One** airs on ITV next month

LWN News for Westminster, Chelsea, Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush and Fulham

This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by **Checkatrade.com** Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email peterfau67@gmail.com

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Bogus police after your cash

By Peter Faulkner

ANY crime against the elderly is despicable and disgusting. It preys on their vulnerability, their ignorance and their trusting nature.

Even worse is that some of the criminals operating in Westminster, Kensington, Chelsea and Hammersmith have stolen the two things that an old person cannot get back – their life savings and their dignity.

One of the worst crimes – and one that has afected every borough in London – is criminals posing as Metropolitan Police officers or bank officials and taking hundred's of thousands of pounds from the most vulnerable members of the community.

The police are having success in tracking down these conmen and two of them, Abdul Mohib, 23, and Mominur Rahman, 19, were jailed after pleading guilty to 27 offences involving a staggering £265,000 taken from residents across London.

They were arrested at a flat in Holborn and it was all due to the work of Westminster's Serious Acquisitive Crime Unit that they were brought to trial and have now been sentenced.

Detective Constable Will Richards from the Unit said: "This is a particularly unpleasant version of the courier fraud that exploits its victims' sense of public duty and preparedness to go to extraordinary lengths in the belief that they are helping the police.

"Beyond their significant financial losses, these offences undermine victims' self-confidence and trust in others. Whilst a number of victims in this case were vulnerable in terms of their age and well-being, these offences were well organised to ensure they would be convincing.

Crooks are posing as Metropolitan Police officers to steal people's life savings

"Victims ranged in age between 41 and 89 and included a number of working professionals and managers. I hope that this result will increase public awareness of this type of crime."

In November last year men posing as police officers were operating in the W1 and WC2 areas. After that there were reports of three men operating the same scam in Pimlico where they had targeted tourists.

How does the scam work?The conman calls the victim claiming to be a police officer and says they are investigating a fraud on their bank account and have arrested someone.

"They might also claim to be from the victim's bank, again stating they are investigating fraudulent activity on their account.

The criminal asks for account information, including card, security and PIN numbers.

Sometimes the offenders will ask victims to 'key in' their PIN number into the phone – the number is then captured by the offenders.

They may also ask the victim to withdraw a large sum of cash from their bank or building society. If they make this request they will explain that the money is required as it needs to be forensically examined.

They also instruct the victim not to tell the bank why they are withdrawing the money, giving the reason that the bank might be involved in the fraud.

The victim is then instructed to put the bank cards and/or money into an envelope and give them to a courier or taxi, which is sent to the house by the offenders to collect the items. If bank cards are collected they will be later used by the offenders to withdraw money.

In some cases the victim might become suspicious and doubt the validity of what the caller is saying.

If this happens, the conman will suggest they call the police on 999 or contact their bank to confirm the caller's identity.

However, what the victim doesn't realise is that the caller hasn't hung up so the line remains open, even if the victim hangs up, so the victim is put straight back through to the offender who will then pretend to be someone else. This 'new' person will then validate the original caller's claims.

A police spokesman said: "If you have vulnerable or elderly family, friends, or neighbours, please take the time to make sure they are aware never to give out personal information over the phone to people they don't know – especially bank details.

"The police or your bank will never ask for this information on the phone so if you do get a call like this please hang up immediately and leave five minutes before reporting it to the police, as the fraudsters may stay on the line.

"We will also never ask to take money from people so please don't hand over cash to anyone claiming to be working for the police.

Avoid these 070 numbers...Don't be conned by a clone...Airport parking hit in the pocket...

■NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch has issued an alert to raise awareness of fraudsters using a variety of ways to trick victims into calling apparent mobile phone numbers beginning with 070 which turn out to be premium rate numbers.

Known as 'personal numbers', they are virtual numbers programmed to forward incoming calls to one of a list of fixed or VoIP telephone numbers pre-selected by the client. Although they are legitimate numbers, calls to 070 numbers are charged at a premium rate and are used by fraudsters to scam unwitting victims.

Calls from a landline can cost up to 65p per minute and may incur an additional call set-up fee of up to 51p. Calls from mobiles can cost up to £1.50 per minute. In extreme cases, victims have received triple figure phone bills as a result of these premium rate numbers.

■THE Financal Conduct Authority is warning people and businesses about a company using the name of a genuine registered company to get money by false pretences.

Grand Loans (a trading name of LeadsMarket.com UK LLC) of Charlotte Street, Westminster, is the clone of an FCA authorised firm who suggest people be aware that the scammers may give out other false details or mix these with some correct details of the registered firm.

This clone company and other companies have cloned all or some of the details of Three Rose Lions and its trading names.

To be sure you are dealing with the FCA authorised firm, please see the details below and verify that they match the details you have been given. If they do not, you may not be dealing with the authorised firm.

FCA authorised firm details

This FCA authorised firm fraudsters are claiming to work for has no association with the 'clone firm'. It is registered to provide financial services in the UK and its correct details are:Three Rose Lions LLC, IP Number: 657516.Addresses: 1st Floor Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7QT and Merchant Bank Building, 16255 Ventura Blvd, Los Angeles, 91436 Website: www.leadsmarket.com

■IF you're going on holiday and plan to use long stay facilities at any of London's airports, check out the company you propose using.

Airport Parking Ltd, a valet compan,y has been fined £6,000 after pretending to park customers' cars in a secure spot close to Gatwick Airport when they were actually left unlocked in fields.

Airport Parking Ltd charged £32.95 per vehicle per night and promised to park it in a location monitored 24 hours a day.

Instead the cars were left in unsecured fields, often with windows open and doors unlocked, while their owners went on holiday.

So before you fly make sure you check who you left your car with.

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

MICHEL Roux Jr. loves sausages. He really, really loves sausages ("It's as simple as that!"), so it makes sense that he's signed up to be the face of this year's British Sausage Week (November 2-8).

"Even though I have got French heritage, I was born in England and brought up on the great British banger," explains the chef, who heads up his family's two-starred Michelin restaurant, Le Gavroche, in London.

His current go-to sausage recipe is definitely on the gourmet end of the banger spectrum though: a take on beef bourguignon, it's pork sausages grilled and cooked like a stew in red wine sauce, and served with mashed potato.

So no, you won't often spot him tucking into a ketchup-dripping sausage butty down his local caff...

"I do occasionally - very occasionally - go to a greasy spoon. I'm more of a sausage at home man," he says with a rueful laugh. "For me, they're a comfort food."

In between cooking up a storm on the sausage front and leaving MasterChef: The Professionals in 2014, the 55-year-old has been braving budding cooks, ranging in age from nine to 12 years, in First Class Chefs on the Disney Channel UK.

"It was wonderful, absolutely wonderful," he says enthusiastically. "Having never worked with children on camera before, it was quite an experience, very heart-warming. And it was great to see them so passionate about food."

Were there any dramas?

"Loads and loads! They were working as teams, so sometimes they were best friends and, because they didn't always agree on how to cook a recipe, things could get very, very fraught - but they all made up in the end."

He's hopeful there will be a second season, but even if there isn't, his diary is already bulging over the next few months.

There's a Channel 4 series he's just finished filming called The Diner, big plans for another cook book, and then there's the success of his daughter and their joint projects to focus on too.

■ ALL YOU NEED: Michel Roux Jr. Below: Pork and leek sausage bourguignon.

Savour great sausages, the quintessential comfort food for the nation

Emily Roux has recently been hired as a consultant by the prestigious hospitality company, Restaurant Associates.

While Roux-the-elder is suitably proud, it doesn't stop the pair clashing in the kitchen. "'Course we do!" he shouts. "We're Rouxs! We've got certain ideas about how food should be cooked and presented, and we're not afraid to voice our opinions.

"But it is very good," he adds sweetly, "it makes us stronger."

From how he appears on TV, it's difficult to imagine Roux Jr. ever really losing his temper, whether at his daughter or his roster of top chefs.

When he does, "it's normally very short lived and I always make sure that afterwards I explain why I lost my rag", he says.

"I tend not to lose my temper because if you do, you actually lose control, and I'm a control freak, so very rarely will I blow my top. But if I do, it's not nice!"

A keen marathon runner (20 and counting), he has been out of action for a few months due to a problem with his calf muscles, but promises: "Next year I'll come back with a vengeance."

Aside from the obvious health benefits, he explains that mentally, running is "a great escape, and to be on my own, that's really nice. And then, because you burn off a lot of calories, you can eat whatever you want. Haha!"

Just before Roux Jr. returns to his sausages (he'll be taste-testing many of the 500 that will be on offer during British Sausage Week), since we're talking bangers, the question has to be asked... "My first ever car was a Peugeot 104. It was certainly rough around the edges. It was old and was even rougher round the edges when I sold it on to the next person - an even bigger banger!"

Planning your own sausage feast? Try one of these twists on a classic meal, including Michel Roux Jr.'s bourguignon and wasabi recipes:

PORK AND LEEK SAUSAGE BOURGUIGNON

(*Serves 4*)

8 pork and leek sausages
12 button onions, peeled
12 button mushrooms
2 carrots, peeled and sliced
500ml strong red wine
500ml beef stock
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbsp butter
1tbsp plain flour
Salt and pepper
2tsp sugar
1 sprig thyme
1 bay leaf
Parsley (optional)

Boil the wine with the thyme, bay leaf and sugar until reduced by half, pass through a sieve and set aside.

Cook the onions in a saucepan until golden using all the butter, then add the flour and garlic and mix well with a wooden spoon. Pour in the wine and stock, bring to the boil, add the mushrooms and carrots.

Lightly grill the sausages until coloured but not cooked through. Add these to the red wine sauce and continue to simmer for 20 minutes.

Check the seasoning, sprinkle with a little chopped parsley and serve with either a creamy mashed potato or buttered new potatoes.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Moroccan baked mackerel

Serves four

THESE are interesting flavours to add to mackerel – and the warka (paper-thin pastry that is a staple of north African cuisine) gives a really nice presentation.

This would be great served with tabbouleh or a fresh, zingy tomato salad. You can buy warka or feuilles de brick in good Middle Eastern supermarkets, or I've seen it in Waitrose. Alternatively, use filo pastry.

For the stuffing

1 large red onion, peeled, halved and finely chopped
1tbsp olive oil
1tsp cumin seeds
½tsp paprika
The grated rind of 1 lemon
30-40g fresh white breadcrumbs
2tbsp chopped parsley
2tbsp chopped coriander
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
For the mackerel
4 medium-sized mackerel, gutted
4 sheets of warka or filo pastry
50g butter, melted
1-2tsp ground cumin
1 lemon, quartered

To serve

1 or 2 lemons, cut into wedges
Interesting flavours: Moroccan baked mackerel (Jason Lowe)

First make the stuffing. Gently cook the onion in the olive oil in a heavy-based saucepan with the cumin seeds, paprika and lemon rind for 2-3 minutes, stirring every so often without colouring. Transfer to a bowl, mix in the breadcrumbs, parsley and coriander, and season to taste.

Fill the cavity of the mackerel with the stuffing and season the outside of the fish. Lay a sheet of pastry on the work surface and trim so that when wrapped it exposes the head and tail. Brush the pastry with butter and lay the mackerel on top. Roll it up so it has a couple of layers, trimming any excess. Lay on a baking tray, brush with butter, and dust with ground cumin.

Preheat the oven to 220°/Gas mark 7. Bake the fish for 8-10 minutes, and serve immediately with the lemon wedges.

■ TUCK IN: Moroccan baked mackerel.

Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews

GRIPPING DRAMA: Frances Ruffelle as Eponine in Les Miserables, and right, on the red carpet.

Bourne receives theatre accolade

MATTHEW Bourne received The Stage Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre at the 2015 UK Theatre Awards.

The choreographer and director said: "I had always hoped that there could be a huge, popular, audience out there for large-scale narrative dance, outside of a couple of grand opera houses in London and our bigger cities and the way to reach that audience was to create accessible, welcoming work that still remained questioning and challenging. This dream could not have been achieved without all those venue managers, artistic directors and programmers throughout the UK, who have helped to create and develop a whole new and unprecedented audience for dance that has exceeded any of our expectations."

Bourne is widely hailed as one of the UK's most popular and successful choreographers and directors. Bourne is a five-time Olivier Award winner; the creator of the world's longest running ballet production and the only British director to have won Tony awards for both Best Choreographer and Best Director of a Musical.

On her own, but close to her fans

Frances Ruffelle *****

WITH the recent 30th anniversary of the acclaimed musical *Les Miserables* many of its former stars are back in the spotlight and none more so than the original Eponine, Frances Ruffelle, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The Tony award-winning singer, known to many as an icon of the genre, not only took part in the show's birthday celebrations alongside the likes of Cameron Mackintosh and Colm Wilkinson but then took to the stage the very next week just around the corner at the Crazy Coqs to promote her brand new album.

The club, which is one of the the premier venues for jazz and cabaret in Soho, boasts a lavish decor and yet contemporary atmosphere and is the perfect space for a performer to get up close and personal with their fans.

Ruffelle's previous cabaret show, entitled *Beneath the Dress,* was highly acclaimed – partly due to the relaxed audience inclusion – and this evening of frivolity was to be no different.

This time the show was called *I Say Yeh Yeh*, a title it shares with the new album, and charted some of the singer's life in France and her particular love for Paris.

With many of the lyrics in French, the performance had to be gutsy and charismatic, attributes which Ruffelle has in abundance. Her take on the Piaf classic *Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien* was commanding and her *Hymne À L'Amour* was simply divine. The highlight was, however, a very different take on the *Les Miserables* classic, *On My Own*, performed whilst posing perfectly atop a piano.

There were other wonderfully classy and intimate touches, like the set list on a chalk board, which the other performers signed prior to their supporting performances, and an off-the-cuff rendition as an encore which didn't wholly go to plan to begin with, but ended up being another stonking success with the gathered throng.

One of the most endearing aspects of big stars performing cabaret is the close quarters in which supporters find themselves.

Sharing the triumph that is a cabaret show with Ruffelle, leaves you astounded at quite how much sheer talent one performer can possess.

NATION'S FAVOURITE: Les Miserables.

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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Soul Night at Koko, Camden

November 10

Tony Blackburn's legendary Soul Night, in which the DJ is joined on stage by artists including The Three Degrees, Shaun Escoffery, Lemar, Diane Shaw, Jaki Graham, Kenny Thomas and Odyssey, will take place on Tuesday, November 10 at London's Koko, Camden. Tickets for this special evening are £30. From this a minimum of £12.50 will be donated to BBC Children In Need.

Blackburn said: "I think the annual soul night is well and truly here to stay. I can't wait to get back on that stage alongside this year's artists for some great performances, and it's all for a great cause!"

David Robey, BBC Radio London editor, said: "Tony's Soul Night was a huge success in the 1980s on BBC Radio London, so it feels appropriate to stage another Soul Night revival to coincide with the return of our radio station's name to BBC Radio London."

Elf the musical at the Dominion Theatre

November 5 to January 2

This year's festive must-see show is going to be this heart-warming extravaganza. The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices. The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7

David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud.

www.importanceofearnest.com

Carmen at the Royal Opera House

To November 30

Experience the power and magnetism of Bizet's most popular opera as Carmen returns to the stage at the Royal Opera House. His 17th and final opera, Carmen tells the story of Don Jose, an inexperienced young soldier seeking to marry Micaela, a girl that he knows from his home village. His plans are thrown wildly off course when he encounters the alluring Carmen, a sensual and spirited woman very different from his intended bride. Carmen soon becomes bored with Don Jose and turns her attentions to the toreador Escamillo, falling in love with him to the despair of Jose. Unable to control his emotions, Don Jose hunts down Carmen and discovers her at the bullring where Escamillo is fighting. With murderous intentions, the young soldier seeks a violent resolution to the entangled romance. Flamboyant, passionate and violent, Bizet's work has lost none of its appeal since its debut in the 19th century. With rousing music that includes the Toreador Song and Carmen's famous Habanera, all the ingredients are here for a truly great opera.

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre

To October 31

Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive 12-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016

Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe.

In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex. Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so.

The Barber of Seville at the London Coliseum

To November 11

The Barber of Seville will have you smiling from the moment it begins. Filled with fun and farce, this sunny adventure follows the escapades of the barber Figaro as he assists Count Almaviva to prise the beautiful yet feisty Rosina away from her lecherous guardian Dr Bartolo.

Set in an elegant vision of 18th-century Seville, Jonathan Miller's much-loved production returns to the Coliseum and remains as side-splittingly funny as ever. For this revival, the talented Christopher Allen will conduct Rossini's sparkling score, packed full of wit and playful tunes.

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The hills are live – on ITV

THIS Christmas ITV will present *The Sound of Music Live!* **– a new television dramatisation of the world's most popular musical.**

The ambitious two-and-a-half-hour musical drama will see the timeless and true story of Maria and the von Trapp family come to life on soundstages at London's Three Mills Studios. Based on the original stage musical, with a book by Lindsay & Crouse and suggested by The Trapp Family Singers and Maria Augusta Trapp, *The Sound of Music Live!* **will include all of the songs from its classic score by Rodgers and Hammerstein, including** *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria, Edelweiss, Do-Re-Mi, My Favorite Things, Climb Ev'ry Mountain* **and the title song.**

The spectacular cast includes Kara Tointon (*Mr Selfridge, Pygmalion, EastEnders***) as Maria; Julian Ovenden (***Downton Abbey, Smash, My Night With Reg***) as Captain Georg von Trapp; Katherine Kelly (***Mr Selfridge, She Stoops To Conquer, Coronation Street***) as Baroness Elsa Schraeder and Alexander Armstrong (***Armstrong and Miller, Pointless, Danger Mouse***) as Max Detweiler.**

ITV's director of entertainment and comedy Elaine Bedell said: "This is the first time in the UK that this type of project has been attempted – a musical drama both performed and broadcast live – but big, ambitious live television events is what ITV does well. We've assembled some of the very best talent both in front of and behind the camera and I can't wait to see it all come together."

Victoria Fea, ITV's controller of drama, said: "We are so thrilled to be making a landmark production of this eternally popular show, which promises to be a highlight of the Christmas schedules. There are some much-loved performers already preparing for the big night and we know they won't disappoint."

Ted Chapin, President of Rodgers & Hammerstein: An Imagem Company, said: "*The Sound of Music* **really is in a class by itself. Since the early sixties, it has lived on as both an award-winning Broadway musical and an award-winning film. The notion of creating a production for live television broadcast is a large undertaking, and one we are delighted ITV has taken on for what will undoubtedly be a Christmas time treat for the whole of the UK."**

Fans can't wait for Funny Girl revival

FULL casting has just been announced for the highly anticipated revival of *Funny Girl* at the Menier Chocolate Factory.

The show, which returns to the London stage for the first time since its 1966 première, will feature West End favourite Darius Campbell alongside Sheridan Smith, who was previously announced to star as Fanny Brice in the musical set in 1900s New York.

Campbell first came to the fore as a contestant on both the *Popstars* and *Pop Idol* programmes on ITV, but has since enjoyed success both on the London stage and as a recording artist and songwriter.

With music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Bob Merrill and book by Isobel Lennart, the Broadway smash which skyrocketed Barbra Streisand to stardom is revived with book revisions by Harvey Fierstein.

Smith plays Fanny Brice, who rose from the Lower East Side of New York to become one of Broadway's biggest stars under producer Florenz Ziegfeld. While she was cheered onstage as a great comedienne, offstage she faced a doomed relationship with the man she loved.

With a score featuring now-classic songs such as *People*, *You Are Woman, I Am Man* and *Don't Rain on My Parade*, this brand new production promises to be a major theatrical event.

Also joining the cast are Valda Aviks (Mrs O'Malley), Natasha J Barnes (Emma/Mrs Meeker), Marilyn Cutts (Mrs Brice), Maurice Lane (Mr Keeney), Bruce Montague (Ziegfeld), Joel Montague (Eddie), Gay Soper (Mrs Strakosh); with Emma Caffrey, Matthew Croke, Joelle Dyson, Rebecca Fennelly, Luke Fetherston, Leah Harris, Kelly Homewood, Sammy Kelly and Stuart Ramsay completing the ensemble.

CRITICS' CHOICE: Sheridan Smith will play Fanny Brice.

WEST END FAVOURITE: Darius Campbell.

The multi award-winning Michael Mayer directs the production, which opens on December 2, with previews from November 20, and runs until March 5, 2016. For full details visit their website *menierchocolatefactory.com*

Talk Of The Town

INTERACTIVE: Empty Lot, by Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas at the Tate Modern. Photos Andrew Dunkley

Sculpture unites city and nature: it'll grow on you

A SCULPTURE using over 23 tonnes of soil from parks and gardens across London has been unveiled in the Turbine Hall at the Tate modern.

The inaugural Hyundai Commission by Abraham Cruzvillegas is the first in a new series of annual site-specific commissions by renowned international artists. *Empty Lot* is a large new sculpture provoking questions about the city and nature, as well as wider ideas of chance, change, and hope.

The sculpture consists of two stepped triangular platforms that extend across Tate Modern's iconic Turbine Hall. Visitors will be able to explore underneath the platforms by wandering through the supporting scaffolding and view them from above on the Turbine Hall bridge. The platforms hold a geometric grid of 240 wooden planters filled with compost and soil from parks and gardens all across London – from Peckham Rye to Regent's Park.

Cruzvillegas is best known for creating sculptural works from local objects, some found, some bought. For the duration of the project, the soil will be lit by lampposts constructed by the artist using materials found in skips and building sites around the Tate. Nothing has been planted by the artist, but flowers, mushrooms, and other greenery may grow depending on what seeds or bulbs have found their way into the soil. Cruzvillegas explores ideas of unpredictability and hope, inviting visitors to see the sculpture changing from one week to the next.

In the middle of a busy commercial area of London, the 'empty lot' is a space where nothing is produced but where change might happen.

Many of the artist's interests are embodied in this project, from seed bombing and guerrilla gardening to ancient 'chinampas', small grids of earth used to grow corn, peppers and tomatoes in the area that later became Mexico City. The triangular shape evokes a giant compass, pointing east and west, but also recalls the strong diagonals used by Russian avant-garde artists such as El Lissitsky and the work of the visionary architect Buckminster Fuller, whose geodesic dome designs comprised intersecting triangular elements.

During the 1990s and 2000s, Cruzvillegas was among the key figures of a new wave of artists in Mexico. For the past few years, he has created a body of work under the title Autoconstrucción or self-construction, a term which usually refers to the way Mexicans of his parents' generation arriving in the capital from rural areas in the 1960s built their own houses in stages, improvising with whatever materials they could source. Cruzvillegas was born in 1968 in Mexico City, where he continues to live and work. He is represented in several major museum collections, including Tate and MoMA, New York, and in recent years his work has been exhibited at Haus der Kunst, Munich (2014); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013); and Modern Art Oxford (2011).

CREATOR: Artist Abraham Cruzvillegas beside Empty Lot.

Poignant study of a man's mental decline

The Father ****

FLORIAN Zeller's *The Father* **was hailed a great success when it ran at the Theatre Royal Bath last year and so it was with great expectation that I attended the press night of its West End transfer at Wyndham's Theatre,** *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The play follows a man in his 70s as he gradually descends deeper into the mire of dementia. At first, Kenneth Cranham as an aged Alzheimer's sufferer portrays the affliction with some comedy and we are sympathetic but amused by his senior moments of memory loss, but as the disease takes hold, we are transported into a confusing and upsetting world of despair and suspicion.

Miriam Buether's set design helps to plunge us further into the depths of the troubled mind where the fantastic Cranham holds long-suffering daughter Claire Skinner accountable for his disappearing functions and furniture. Skinner shows her mettle as the carer and protector – and with glimpses of a daughter's continued need for affection she awakens the audience's deepest empathy. Zeller's play is a touching and truthful take on the sometimes heartbreaking ageing process and beautifully echoes the dreadfully painful repercussions of this most devastating illness.

The Father **runs at Wyndham's Theatre until November 21. For more details visit** *delfontmackintosh.co.uk*

TOUCHING: Anne, played by Claire Skinner, must deal with the decline of her father Andre, played by Kenneth Cranham.

Goldilocks promises plenty of fun

THE latest chapter in the hugely successful children's season at the Lyric Hammersmith has seen the Dorset-based theatre company, Stuff and Nonsense, bring their very special version of the classic ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears*** to the studio space.

The show, which is running now until October 31, incorporates ingenious puppetry, music and mischievous movement in the telling of the famous fable. Artistic director Niki McCretton explained to *London Weekly News* theatre critic *Nicky Sweetland* about the theatre company's take on the famous fairytale.

"Our version of Goldilocks is a lovely story of a lost girl who becomes great friends with the little bear. The set is an amazing woodland where they have adventures and try to solve the problem of a girl who doesn't belong anywhere. Everyone keeps saying how magical the woodland is and audiences love that Goldilocks is very acrobatic!"

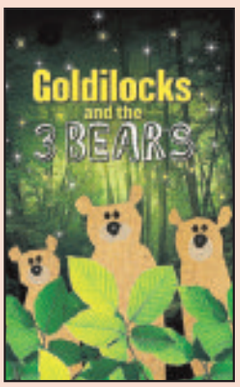
The company loves to make energetic, thought-provoking and playfully mischievous theatre productions for children aged from two years upwards and their families.

They work with children to create ideas, using the power of great imagination, fantastic puppetry and lots of physical action.

McCretton is an expert in working in early-years settings and in inspiring the imagination and creative energy of all ages. She has been creating and touring theatre throughout the UK and internationally for 20 years and is passionate about making theatre that is just as engaging for parents as it is for children.

McCretton added: "We are thrilled to have brought this show to the Lyric – we love to come here as the audiences are always terrific and we are also excited as Stuff and Nonsense are based at The Lyric Theatre in Bridport, in Dorset, so we feel like we are coming to visit the mother ship of the art."

Goldilocks and the Three Bears will run in the Studio at the Lyric Hammersmith until October 31. For more details visit their website *lyric.co.uk*



HAPPY TALE: Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

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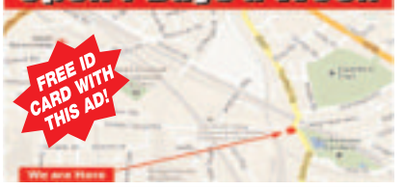

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Erection of a rear extension at first floor level on top of the existing back addition; and removal of a window on the side elevation at first floor level.
Flat First Floor 5 Benbow Road W6 2015/04863/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a glass balustrade around remainder of flat roof at first floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; installation of a door in the rear elevation of the proposed rear extension at first floor level in order to provide access to proposed roof terrace; and removal of a window on the side elevation at first floor level.
21 Hemlock Road W12 2015/04709/FUL
Retention of a single storey rear extension to the side of the main building.
214 - 216 Blythe Road W14 2015/04770/FUL
Change of use of lower ground and upper ground floor level from offices (Class B1) into 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); installation of a new window and an extract vent to the side of rear back addition at lower ground floor level.
11 Chipstead Street SW6 2015/04787/FUL
Alterations to the front lightwell to include the erection of external staircase from basement to ground floor level within the existing front lightwell; installation of a new metal gate to the side railings at front of the property.
Bannon Court Michael Road SW6 2015/04783/FUL
Change of use of first and second floor level from 10 x non-self-contained residential bedsit units and 54sqm office use floorspace (Class B1) into 3 x 1 bedroom and 2 x 2 bedroom self-contained residential flats; installation of a dormer window to side elevation at second floor level; installation of a new window in gable end at second floor level.
Stadium House 68 Wood Lane W12 2015/04712/FUL
Change of use of ground floor from Offices (Class B1) into a health clinic (Class D1).
26 Atwood Road W6 2015/03808/FUL
Replacement of existing single glazed windows with new double glazed windows to all elevations at ground and first floor level; replacement of existing single glazed door with new double glazed door at ground floor level to the side elevation (Revised drawings).
Maisonette First And Second Floors 33 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6 2015/04868/FUL
Replacement of all existing windows on first and second floor levels with new timber sash windows; replacement of existing door to front elevation at first floor level with new timber door.
Flat 6 111 New King's Road SW6 2015/04850/FUL
Replacement of the glasshouse above the rear flat roof at first floor level with a new raised roof structure including 2no rooflights in the rear roofslope.
28 Kings Mall King Street W6 2015/03761/ADV
Display of a free standing 'A' framed Board sign on the public highway in front of the premises.
Flat First And Second Floors 8 Bamborough Gardens W12 2015/04829/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; and installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road SW6 2015/04788/FUL
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area; erection of ground and first floor extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.
45 Musard Road W6 2015/04825/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement and lowering of the existing basement.
Communication Station 21 Sherbrooke Road London 2015/04855/TEL56
To remove existing 6no.antennas (2no. antennas in each of 3no. existing GRP replica chimney's and replace with 6no. antennas (2no. antennas in each of 3no. existing GRP replica chimney's), install 1no. equipment cabinet together with associated ancillary works;
Land Adjacent To Du Cane Road East Of Pedestrian Underpass East Acton W12 0TX 2015/04582/FUL
Installation of a 17.5m street furniture pole including 6 no. shrouded antennas, 2no. equipment cabinets and ancillary works.
Fulham Gas Works Imperial Road London 2015/04762/FUL
The erection of a relocated replacement Pressure Reduction Station, associated structures and compound.
Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane W122015/04817/ADV
Display of the details of the BBC Television Centre development consultants and contractors on the existing hoarding in two locations in close proximity to Gate 2 and Gate 5 respectively.
O/S Bush Theatre 7 Uxbridge Road W12 2015/04828/FUL
Installation of a new public telephone kiosk with an ATM machine to replace the existing public telephone kiosk.
109 And 109B New King's Road SW6 2015/04870/FUL
Demolition of existing buildings with the exception of front facade of no. 109 New King's Road; erection of a four storey building at No. 109 and a three storey building at No. 109B, including the excavation of basements for both properties, in connection with the creation of 1 x single family dwellinghouse at no. 109B New King's Road and 1 x 4 bedroom self-contained unit with a flexible (A2/D1 use) commercial unit at ground floor level at no. 109 New Kings Road; formation of roof terraces to both properties at roof level and the formation of a balcony to the front elevation of 109B New King's Road; associated external alterations.
3 Napier Avenue SW6 2015/04873/FUL
Installation of a new window at first floor level to the side elevation.
1A Walham Grove SW6 2015/04539/FUL
Change of use of the ground floor and basement from a shop and delicatessen (Class A1) to a restaurant and cafe use (Class A3); installation of new shopfronts and new awnings to both the Walham Grove and North End Road elevations; and installation of an extract flue to the rear elevation.
7 Netherwood Road W14 2015/04701/FUL
Installation of windows to the front elevation at ground floor level to replace existing; and blocking up of one of the door openings to the front elevation at ground floor level with materials to match existing.
7 Winslow Road W6 2015/04756/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
Barons Court Station Palliser Road W14 2015/04777/LBC
Alterations to the ticket office room elevation 'A' to include, installation of a 350mm diameter circular 'i' sign, removal of chip and pin units and installation of heritage vinyls to the ticket office windows, installation of non-pvc film to both sides of the glass signage on cantilevered light box; alterations to the ticket office room elevation 'B' to include, installation of heritage vinyl to the ticket office window and installation of non-pvc film to both sides of the glass signage on cantilevered light box; alterations to the ticket office room elevation 'C' to include, installation of a free standing passenger help point fixed to the floor and tiled back to the wall; associated internal alterations.
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road SW6 2015/04789/LBC
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area; erection of ground and first floor extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road SW6 2015/04788/FUL
Erection of a single storey plus-basement outbuilding, including excavation under the car store to form a new basement level car parking and storage area; erection of ground and first floor extension to the existing cottage in the rear garden, including installation of new windows and doors to replace the existing; formation of a new brick flower bed in the rear garden; demolition and rebuilding of the boundary wall and gates to the southern elevation of the site; associated landscaping, internal and external alterations.
1A Walham Grove SW6 2015/04539/FUL
Change of use of the ground floor and basement from a shop and delicatessen (Class A1) to a restaurant and cafe use (Class A3); installation of new shopfronts and new awnings to both the Walham Grove and North End Road elevations; and installation of an extract flue to the rear elevation.
7 Winslow Road W6 2015/04756/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 15th November 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Maisonette First And Second Floors 793 Fulham Road SW6 2015/04707/FUL
I give notice that Mr M And N Anderson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the conversion of a two bedroom maisonette at first and second floor levels into three one bedroom flats at first, second and third floor levels.
1 Gayford Road W12 2015/04849/FUL
I give notice that Palladian Development Limited is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing building and redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of a three storey plus-basement building with roof terraces at first and second floor level to provide 2 x two bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats, erection of a part one, part two storey building with roof terraces at first floor level to provide 2 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats; formation of cycle parking, refuse storage and associated landscaping.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by
15th November 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Public Notices

e-mail: classified@slp.co.uk
www.southlondon-today.co.uk

Tel: 020 8768 4939

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(RAVENSCOURT PARK AND BISHOP'S PARK FIREWORKS DISPLAYS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that to prevent the likelihood of danger to the public and to prevent the roads listed in the schedules to this notice becoming thronged or obstructed it made an Order the effect of which imposes restrictions on vehicular traffic as detailed in the schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this notice.
2. The Order would come into operation on the 6th Novemeber 2015 and will be in force for a maximum of 18 months.
3. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical and for any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes, the execution of the event, and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

Dated this 25th day of September 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Schedule 1

The following restrictions will apply from 5pm to 10pm on the 7th November 2015 and from 5pm to 10pm on the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display.

(a) RAVENSCOURT GARDENS, closed, from its junction with Ravenscourt Park to its junction with Goldhawk Road. (No alternative route available).
(b) RAVENSCOURT PARK, closed, from its junction with King Street to its northern extremity. (No alternative route available).
(c) RAVENSCOURT ROAD, closed, between the junction with King Street and 19 Ravenscourt Road. (No alternative route available).
(d) RAVENSCOURT AVENUE, closed from its junction with King Street to the Ravenscourt Park entrance (No alternative route available).
(e) HAMLET GARDENS, closed at the junction with Ravenscourt (diversion via Westcroft Square on to Hamlet Gardens)

Schedule 2

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the lengths of road below from 5pm to 10pm on the 7th November 2015 and 5pm to 10pm on the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display.

(a) KING STREET, the north side, from its junction with Dalling Road to its junction with the north to south arm of Hamlet Gardens.
(b) PADDENSWICK ROAD, the south-west side, from its junction with Goldhawk Road to a point opposite the northern kerb-line of Dorville Crescent.
(c) GOLDHAWK ROAD, the east side, from a point 16.00 metres north of the northern kerb-line of Ravenscourt Gardens to a point 10.00 metres south of the southern kerb-line of Ravenscourt Gardens.

Schedule 3

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the length of road below from 9am on the 2nd November 2015 to 5pm on the 12th November 2015 and from 9am on the fifth calendar day prior to the day of the 2016 Ravenscourt Park Fireworks Display to 5pm on the fifth calendar day after that event.
RAVENSCOURT PARK, from the northern party wall of Ravenscourt Park Hospital and No. 20 Ravenscourt Park to a point 62.00 metres south of that party wall.

Schedule 4

A no waiting or loading at any time restriction will apply to the length of road below from 9am on the 1st November 2015 to 5pm on the 11th November 2015 and from 9am on the fifth calendar day prior to the day of the 2016 Bishop's Park Fireworks Display to 5pm on the fifth calendar day after that event.
STEVENAGE ROAD, the west side, between its meeting point with Bishop's Park Road to its junction with Doneraile Street.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(EFFIE PLACE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works in Effie Place, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a Effie Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Education

Tel: 020 8768 4939

Education & Training

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:
1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.
3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.
4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.
5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.
8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.
11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.
12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.
13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.
(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.
(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.
14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.
15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.
16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.
Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-reference agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.
Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.
Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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Ramsey relieved as JET eases pressure

FOUR points in three days at home and two rare clean sheets . . . QPR are buzzing going into tomorrow night's (Friday) live televised west London derby at Brentford.

Second-half goals from Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, Matt Phillips and substitute Junior Hoilett gave R's a 3-0 victory against Milton Keynes Dons on Saturday to keep them in touching distance of the Championship play-offs.

With Hoops' head coach Chris Ramsey also indicating that Charlie Austin has recovered sufficiently from his hamstring injury to be included in the squad, R's fans are relishing a Griffin Park showdown with their near neighbours, who are two points and two places behind them in 12th position.

Big day

"It was a big day for us," said Ramsey. "We've shot ourselves in the foot too many times this season but today we showed we can defend as a unit and attack on the front foot.

"I thought we were good value for the win and the margin of the victory in the end."

Ramsey acknowledged the importance of a crucial save by Robert Green early in the second half, before Rangers scored three goals in the final 20 minutes.

"You can't underestimate the importance of Rob's save at 0-0," said Ramsey. "His concentration levels came to the fore in that instance and soon after we were a goal up and on our way to winning the game.

"He showed what a top class keeper he is with that save."

Tjarron Chery spurned a golden chance to open the scoring when he shot straight at MK Dons keeper David Martin from eight yards out. Matt Phillips also screwed a cross-shot wide of the far post, while Paul Konchesky's low shot crept under Martin before being cleared off the line.

Ramsey added: "I thought we dominated the first-half and probably could have been a goal or two up at the break.

Impact

"They found a way back into it in the second period but our subs came on and had an impact and we got the three goals our overall performance probably deserved."

A piece of individual skill by Emmanuel-Thomas, netting his fifth goal of the season, set R's on their way. There seemed little danger as Nedum Onuoha floated a long diagonal cross to the edge of the penalty area but 'JET' plucked it from the air with his long left leg and, in one movement, flicked the ball over the head of his tight marker Jordan Spence. He then skipped inside covering defender Kyle McFadzean before coolly side-footing home from close-range.

There won't be many better goals scored at Loftus Road this season. No doubt it pleased Stan Bowles and the other heroes of the 1975-76 squad who were given the warm reception they deserved when introduced to the 15,567 crowd.

"Jay's goal was fantastic – a brilliant piece of individual skill, a decent touch and a good finish," praised Ramsey.

"I was really impressed with his overall performance today, both in an attacking sense and in the defensive third."

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

R's 3-0 win followed the midweek goalless draw at home to Sheffield Wednesday, who have now gone unbeaten in six games. Some QPR fans reckon the catalyst for this new-found resilience is the return of veteran defender Clint Hill who has played in the last two games despite having just turned 37.

Although he didn't single out Hill for credit, Ramsey added: "We've worked on the defensive side of our game over the last few weeks and I think the last two performances have shown that if we get that right, it gives us a platform from which to build."

Rangers shouldn't get carried away by this result, though. MK Dons were poor and will struggle to avoid a quick return to League One. It probably said something about their performance and manner of their capitulation in W12 that fighting broke out among the away fans.

Disgruntled

Not that QPR fans were overjoyed before the floodgates finally opened. When Ramsey replaced midfielder Massimo Luongo with Leroy Fer in the 57th minute, he had to endure cries of 'you don't know what you're doing' from disgruntled supporters, who then mockingly chanted 'off, off, off' when one of their own players, Karl Henry, was shown a yellow card.

But that didn't concern Ramsey, who added: "It's a relief to end the week with a win – now we've got to move on to Brentford on Friday."

It promises to be a tough test for Ramsey and his players. The Bees are on a decent run of form, having won 3-0 at Charlton on Saturday following a 2-0 win at Wolves and a 2-1 home success against Rotherham.

MASSIMO Luongo. Fans jeered manager Chris Ramsey when the Australian midfielder was taken off at Loftus Road on Saturday

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, October 30
Brentford v QPR, 7.45
Saturday, October 31
CHELSEA v Liverpool, 12.45
Bristol City v FULHAM, 3.00
Tuesday, November 3
Burnley v FULHAM, 7.45
Derby County v QPR, 7.45
Wednesday, November 4
CHELSEA v Dynamo Kiev (UCL), 7.45

BETTIN£ BANTER

PEOPLE who gamble sometimes do the strangest things.

Take the bloke who walked into an Essex high street bookies at the start of the season and casually enquired of a somewhat startled member of staff: "What price Chelsea to be relegated this season?"

The punter had his fiver ready to plonk down on the counter.

But when he was informed that the price quoted on Blues to go down was 2000-1, he bullishly replied: "Thank you very much – and can I have another couple of quid on that, please!"

Before cashing the bet, the shop assistant double-checked with the man that he knew what he was doing . . . that he really did want to throw £7 down the drain.

The punter's explanation was simple. "One day," he said, "Abramovich is going to pull out of Chelsea and when he does the club will fold like a pack of cards."

But surely not in mid-season?

As I say, people walking into a betting shop can do crazy things.

At least the supreme speculator – or should that be mug? – can argue that Blues' price to go down has now halved to 1000-1!

He might have had more hope of a winning return by backing Jose Mourinho to be the next Premier League manager to leave his job.

With Villa having got rid of Tim Sherwood last weekend, the odds on the 'Special One' to exit The Bridge shortened to 9/4 generally – with only Newcastle's Steve McClaren left ahead of him in the sack race.

Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola was a best-priced 6-1 (5.00) favourite with Sky Bet to replace Mourinho ahead of Chelsea's League Cup visit to Stoke on Tuesday. Paddy Power had the Spaniard as short as 5/2.

Good luck – and always bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald

HAMMERS' Jamie Lo (right) running for the try line and (below) the gruesome eye injury he suffered in Saturday's win at Staines.

RUGBY UNION

HAMMERSMITH & Fulham fought a rearguard action after losing two of their back three through injury to win 33-19 at Staines.

Wingers Jamie Lo and Tony Bryant both limped off in the second-half, leaving flanker Charlie Precious to man one of the wings.

Despite a Staines' revival in the final quarter, the visiting side did enough to secure the important win which lifts them to second in the table.

Captain James Smart said: "We started really well and our set-piece was solid all afternoon. We probably did enough in the first-half to win the game. But to be fair to Staines they came back at us hard and we did well to hold them off."

Hammers started well, dominating territory and possession. After gaining field position, they dotted down with a push-over try from a scrum for their first try of the afternoon. Lo got on the score-sheet before half-time and fly-half Si Doherty also crossed the whitewash.

Staines battled back with a dab through to score, followed by an interception try. But Hammers managed to tighten up their defence and have the last say of the day, with Corey Dennis skpping through three tackles before offloading to Mike Burr to settle the game.

Hammers have a break before taking on Old Haberdashers at home the following weekend.

'Chopper' Harris defends Jose

Continued from back page

But record appearance holder Ron Harris has come out in defence of Mourinho and suggested that the current dip in form is bad luck as much as anything.

"They've had one or two important decisions go against them and it's only natural people get a bit irate," Harris told BBC Radio 5 Live at the weekend.

"Jose has always been a winner and, if he sits down and thinks about it, maybe he could have handled it in a different manner. He most probably regrets it.

"Let's be fair, if you look at his track record whereever he's been, you don't become a bad manager after 10 games. I do the hospitality at the club and I've not seen too many people at Chelsea moaning and groaning."

CHELSEA under-18s continue to be a source of inspiration. They increased their lead at the top of the U18 Premier League table by beating Reading 2-0 at Cobham on Saturday, thanks to goals from Charlie Wakefield and substitute Harvey St Clair.

LEGENDS Ron Harris (right) and Peter Osgood lift the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1971.

WITH the WSL title and FA Cup already in the bag and a tilt at the Champions League to be continued, three of Chelsea's successful ladies side made their debut for England in the International Women's Football Tournament on Friday, when Blues striker Eniola Aluko scored England's goal in their 2-1 loss to China. England stalwart Gemma Davison also played, while Gilly Flaherty and subs Drew Spence and Laura Coombs made their international bows.

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■ LOST for words. Jose Mourinho during the controversial defeat at West Ham Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Meltdown of indiscipline

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
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JOSE Mourinho faces the deepest crisis of his extraordinary managerial career.

The 2-1 defeat at West Ham United on Saturday has heaped massive pressure on the Chelsea board, who see their club languishing in 15th place in the Premier League, just five points above the relegation zone.

The indiscipline on the pitch is being mirrored in the dugout. Mourinho was red-carded by referee Jonathan Moss at half-time, just minutes after his assistant Silvino Lauro had been sent to the stands.

This followed the red card brandished to Nemanja Matic on the pitch, which reduced the beleaguered Blues to 10 men.

Action plan

Roman Abramovich issued the dreaded vote of confidence to Mourinho two weeks ago, which, almost by default, has set the board on course to prepare an action plan should they decide that enough is enough with their controversial Portuguese manager.

If that happens, the board will seek to appoint an immediate interim man before seeking a permanent replacement.

And they have three men in mind – current technical director Michael Emenalo, first-team coach Steve Holland and Abramovich favourite and former Chelsea manager Avram Grant.

Grant, currently managing the Ghana national team, will be very familiar with the set-up at SW6. In September 2007, following the departure of Mourinho, he was appointed Chelsea manager but despite steering the team into the Champions League final, the League Cup final and contesting the Premier League title to the last day, his contract was terminated at the end of the season.

But he will know some of the current players very well. Blues' recent surprise signing, left-back Baba Rahman, is a Ghana international.

While Holland is cutting his teeth as Mourinho's number two, his part-time role as England under-21 coach will have increased his standing with the board members. He will be considered a safe pair of hands, albeit inexperienced.

Emenalo is naturally well connected with the hierarchy, having been employed as a scout and assistant coach before becoming the club's sporting director.

His talent for picking players for Abramovich to buy is appreciated in the boardroom and should he get to sit in the big chair, even for a short time, he will be confident in his own ability to steer the side out of the lowly position they find themselves in.

LWN Sport went to press before Chelsea faced Stoke City away on Tuesday in the Capital One Cup, ahead of Liverpool's visit to Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Stick or twist

By the time the two matches are concluded, Abramovich will have decided to either stick or twist – stick with Jose or twist the knife in and show him the door for a second time.

There does not seem to be an appetite from Chelsea fans to get rid of Mourinho and that, for once, will count in his favour with his employers.

But the business side of the club is predicated on regular Champions League football which generates such a large chunk of annual revenue. While they could absorb one season on the sidelines, they would expect a return to Europe's elite the following year.

Less than six months after winning the Premier League title, it's fair to say that Chelsea's 2015-16 campaign has almost reached rock bottom. Following the inglorious defeat to their east London rivals, Blues are now looking down, rather than up, at the teams around them in the league.

An almost total media blackout by Mourinho after the game compounded a miserable day in Chelsea's long and distinguished history.

Gary Cahill was put up to trot out the usual 'we must work harder' line but Mourinho's absence from his media duties at Upton Park will result in a fine from the Premier League.

Ref Moss' match report will determine the reasons behind Mourinho's half-time sending off to the stands.

With an £50,000 FA fine already levelled at the club, plus a suspended stadium ban hanging over him, Mourinho can expect another hammering from the game's authorities.

Having defeated Aston Villa and gained a creditable 0-0 draw away to Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League, the Chelsea manager decided to stick with the same side for the visit to the Boleyn Ground, where clumsy defending from a corner allowed Hammers to take the lead through former QPR loanee Mauro Zarate.

Nemanja Matic, restored to the league starting line-up after being dropped for the Villa game, was sent off for two needless yellow cards.

Sent to the stands

A meltdown of indiscipline then ensued in the Blues' dugout which firstly saw Chelsea assistant coach Silvio Lauro sent to the stands.

He was followed by Mourinho, red-carded by Moss during the half-time break.

Six visiting players – Matic, Cesc Fabregas, his half-time replacement John Obi Mikel, Cesar Azpilicueta, Willian and Diego Costa – were all shown cards.

While the ever-reliable Cahill managed to claw 10-men Chelsea back into the game with a smart strike, he was absent without leave, along with right-back Kurt Zouma, when Andy Carroll rose highest to head home Hammers' winner.

Chelsea can always rely on former players to speak up on behalf of their former employers as the club attempts to navigate its way through a public relations disaster that has seen the standing of the club reduced to a new low. The fallout from the Dr Eva Carneiro affair is still to hit calmer waters.

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This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Be careful what you wish for

AFTER scoring three goals in three days to help lift Fulham into the top half of the table, no wonder the club hopes Moussa Dembélé will soon commit his long-term future to Craven Cottage.

Dembélé, 19, signed from Paris Saint-Germain in 2012, scored in last week's 1-1 home draw with Leeds United but he was a hero in west London on Saturday, when Whites came from 2-0 down to defeat high-flying Reading 4-2 in an amazing turnaround.

Manager Kit Symons confirmed Whites were in contract talks with Dembélé, saying: "We'd like him to sign and he's at a club where he'll keep developing and improving. What you're seeing now is far from the finished article."

The powerful centre-forward's initial three-year deal with Fulham expired in the summer and he has yet to sign a new one. Dembélé doesn't turn 20 until next July and there are reports that a number of other clubs are closely monitoring his progress.

"This is the best place for him and hopefully we can get the contract sorted out soon," continued Symons. "He's enjoying his football and we'd love him to stay.

"He's got pace and power and some really good assets."

Injury to Matt Smith has enabled Dembélé to enjoy his first real run in the Fulham starting line-up this season and the youngster has responded with six goals in 15 games.

His brace against Reading, plus goals from Ross McCormack and Alex Kacaniklic, might have prolonged Symons' time in charge of Fulham after speculation increased last week that he was on the brink of being sacked.

With Fulham's Florida-based owner Shahid Khan visiting London last week to watch his American football team Jacksonville Jaguars pull off a thrilling victory in the NFL game at Wembley on Sunday, many Fulham fans assumed he would take the opportunity to relieve Symons of his duties, especially after watching such a poor midweek performance against Leeds and hearing a section of the crowd calling for his manager's head.

Khan told reporters: "Quite frankly, I think we need to do better. Our goal is to finish in the top six.

"The resources are there, we're committed, but the results are what the results are. We need to re-gear up."

But then the 65-year-old owner appeared to give Symons the dreaded vote of confidence when he added: "He's a wonderful man, he's a Fulham man and I like him a lot. We want him to succeed."

Symons might have feared the worst as second-placed Reading went 2-0 up early in the second-half. But by scoring three goals in six minutes and winning 4-2 in style, Fulham's players demonstrated that they are still playing for their manager.

"It was very pleasing," said Symons. "We needed to get a win today and we did. I would rather have gone about it in a slightly easier fashion but I'm still delighted to get the three points and score four very good goals."

Maybe Fulham fans who think they would be better off with another manager should be careful what they wish for. The Championship is notoriously inconsistent and if Whites can sort out their defence, they clearly possess the talent and attacking zeal to achieve Khan's aim of reaching the play-offs.

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